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Leading with Purpose: Pro Bono Month at MBLB

Every October, the legal community across the country comes together to observe National Pro Bono Month. For many of us, pro bono service is a powerful reminder of why we entered the legal profession in the first place: to advocate for justice, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that equal justice under the law is not merely an abstract ideal, but a tangible reality for everyone in our community.

Importance of Pro Bono Work

In Louisiana and across the nation, the need for free civil legal services has reached a critical point. For individuals navigating legal issues, whether defending against unfair eviction, securing protection in a domestic dispute, resolving succession matters to keep a family home, or securing custody of a child, having access to skilled legal representation can change a life forever

Despite the best efforts of public interest organizations, thousands of low-income individuals go without essential legal assistance every year simply because they cannot afford it. This "justice gap" leaves vulnerable community members to navigate intricate court rules and adversarial proceedings alone.

Pro bono service stands as a direct bridge across this divide. When attorneys step up to lend their skills and time, they transform what can feel like an intimidating legal system into a venue where everyone has a fair chance to be heard.

Pro Bono Work at MBLB: Closing the Justice Gap

As an associate at Mouledoux, Bland, Legrand & Brackett ("MBLB"), I am proud to work at a firm where community involvement and access to justice are not just ideals, but core values put into action every day.

MBLB's commitment to our community was on full display at The Pro Bono Project's 38th Annual Justice For All Ball, held on September 18, 2026, at The MISI. As Co-Chair of this year's ball, I had the privilege of seeing firsthand how our entire firm steps up to support the Pro Bono Project's mission. From attorneys serving on the Silent Auction and

Restaurant Sub-Committees to the firm's attorneys who attended in support of the evening, MBLB demonstrated what true dedication to local legal aid looks like.

However, MBLB's dedication to pro bono work extends far beyond sponsorships. MBLB attorneys consistently give back throughout the year. These efforts include taking on pro bono cases, volunteering at the Civil District Court ("CDC") Self-Help Resource Center and dedicating their skills at various workshops to help those who need it most.

MBLB's continuous pro bono efforts make clear that our firm's dedication to equal access to justice is genuine. Whether through major financial sponsorships, leadership roles like co-chairing the 38th Annual Justice For All Ball, or hands-on service like staffing the CDC Self-Help Resource Center and taking on direct case referrals, MBLB repeatedly proves that community is a core value put into action every day. Being part of a firm where everyone collectively steps up to support underserved members of our community makes practicing law at MBLB exceptionally fulfilling.

The Professional & Personal Rewards of Pro Bono Service

While MBLB's collective efforts directly strengthen our community, the impact of pro bono service extends far beyond our firm. On an individual level, stepping up to take on pro bono matters yields significant professional and personal rewards that enrich an attorney's career and daily practice.

Pro Bono service allows attorneys to leverage their specialized skills to make a positive impact on someone's life. Beyond fulfilling our professional responsibility under Rule 6.1 of the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct, pro bono work offers several distinct benefits:

- **Direct Impact on Lives:** Pro bono work provides tangible assistance to individuals who would otherwise have nowhere else to turn. Securing housing stability or helping a family gain legal clarity brings profound personal purpose to a legal practice.

- **Accelerated Professional Development:** Taking pro bono cases offers invaluable hands-on legal experience that accelerates skill-building for attorneys at any career stage.

- **Meaningful Community Connection:** Pro bono service offers a clear view into pressing local legal needs, fostering lasting connections with fellow practitioners, local leaders, and community members.

- **Strengthening Systemic Fairness:** The judicial system functions most efficiently when all parties have access to competent legal guidance. Pro bono participation reduces administrative delays in courtrooms and promotes public confidence in the legal process.

Opportunities for Local Involvement

Louisiana offers numerous avenues for attorneys to contribute their time and expertise, accommodating varying practice areas and schedule availability. A few of these avenues are discussed below.

The Pro Bono Project

The Pro Bono Project offers a wide range of opportunities. These opportunities range from taking full-representation civil cases to volunteering at the Civil District Court ("CDC") Self-Help Desk in New Orleans.
https://www.probono-no.org/

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services ("SLLS")

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services provides civil legal assistance to low-income individuals across southeast Louisiana, offering volunteer opportunities in housing rights, disaster relief, veterans' services, and public benefits.
https://slls.org/

Local Bar Associations and Specialty Clinics

Many local and specialty bar associations host legal advice clinics, expungement workshops, and community education sessions throughout the year.
https://www.lsba.org/Public/FindLegalHelp/ProBonoOrganizations.aspx

Conclusion & Call to Action: Get Involved This October

Whether you can commit to representing a client through an individual case, dedicating a few hours a month to a local self-help desk, or mentoring younger attorneys taking on their first pro bono matter, your contribution makes a meaningful difference.

This National Pro Bono Month, consider taking on a new pro bono file or signing up for a volunteer shift with a local legal aid provider. Together, we can help ensure that access to justice remains available to all.