

Breaking Down Barriers to Justice by Building Up In-House Pro Bono Programs

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1. PowerPoint Presentation

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In 2014, Americans spent more than \$350 million on Halloween costumes for their pets, according to the National Retail Federation, but only \$335 million for Legal Services Corporation basic field grants, the largest source of federal funding for civil legal aid.

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In-House Pro Bono Programs Have Power!

- **In-house legal departments present an important resource in the provision of pro bono services to those in need in our communities.**
- **Growth of in-house pro bono programs can greatly increase access to legal services for and eliminate biases against persons of diverse race, gender, economic status, creed, color, national origin, disability, age or sexual orientation.**

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Barriers to Justice

- Poverty (cause and consequence)
- Discrimination (race, gender, immigrant status, people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTQ)
- Lack of awareness of legal rights and options
- Fear of retribution
- Interactions between individuals and the system
- Communication barriers
- Over-burdened legal system
- Confusing referral system
- Geographic inaccessibility

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Your Company Can Help!

- **Minnesota Corporate Pro Bono Council has 23 member companies**
- **There is an absolute business case for companies embracing in-house pro bono**
- **Build support and encourage participation**

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The Business Case for Pro Bono

- **Access to justice enhances our communities, grows our workforce and customer base, and improves quality of life**
- **Every company has something to gain (AND MUCH TO GIVE) from doing pro bono**

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Infrastructure

- **Involving leadership**
- **Structure options**
- **Policies**
- **Goals**

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Recognition

- **Newsletters**
- **Team Meetings**
- **Evaluation Process**

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Types of Work

- **Signature Projects**
- **Clinics**
- **Legal Service Provider Partnerships**
- **Law Firm Partnerships**

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Questions . . .

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