

2021



M U L T N O M A H B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

Pro Bono Pledge

Take a matter that matters



“Our system of justice works only if the people we serve believe that the system is truly fair and just for all. Lawyers make a difference. Without lawyers, many litigants are simply unable to navigate the legal system. Please make a difference for low-income people in this community. Take the Pro Bono pledge and help make access to justice for all a reality.”

*Stephen K. Bushong
Multnomah County Circuit Court
Presiding Judge*

Thousands of low-income members of our community are facing serious legal problems. Families are losing their homes. Women are threatened by abusive relationships. People with disabilities are being unfairly denied benefits. Having the law on their side is not always enough. Sometimes they need a lawyer by their side. Unfortunately, only about 15% of low-income Oregonians receive needed legal representation.

The Multnomah Bar Association’s Pro Bono Pledge seeks to dramatically increase access to justice by calling on attorneys to commit to at least one pro bono matter in 2021. In addition, law firms are asked to adopt a written pro bono policy and encourage participation in the individual pledge. Both are asked to financially support legal service organizations of their choice.

The benefits of pro bono representation are many. Lives are often changed and sometimes saved. Belief in our justice system is restored. Attorneys who accept pro bono work receive personal satisfaction and valuable training, and law firms often receive public recognition.

The MBA Pro Bono Pledge aims to mobilize lawyers’ time and money to knock down the barriers that block access to the justice system for so many Oregonians. By giving a relatively small amount of each, together we can make

a significant contribution to our community and a profound difference in the lives of individuals.

Attorneys and firms can sign the pledge online at www.mbabar.org/probonopledge.



“Every Oregon lawyer has an obligation to help ensure access to justice for all. The MBA Pro Bono Pledge - to represent a client of limited means or an organization serving that community and to provide financial support for legal services for the poor - is a public commitment to that bedrock principle of democracy. I encourage all lawyers to take the Pledge - you will learn much about the interrelated nature of reality and you, your clients, and our system of justice will benefit immensely from your participation.”

*Martha L. Walters
Oregon Supreme Court
Chief Justice*

Recognizing Your Commitment

By adopting the pro bono pledge, you are inspiring others and expressing your dedication to justice for all. Individual and firm pledge signatories will be recognized in the Multnomah Lawyer. Additionally, we would like to thank the following firms who have taken the pledge:

Ball Janik LLP
Barrack Law Firm PC
Barran Liebman LLP
Bodyfelt Mount LLP
Brindle McCormack, PC
Buchalter Ater Wynne
Bullivant Houser Bailey PC
Clarke Balcom PC
Cosgrave Vergeer Kester LLP
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Denecke Employment Law
Dotten ADR
Dunn Carney LLP
Dwyer Mediation Center
Farleigh Wada Witt
Foley & Mansfield
Foster Garvey PC
Gearing Rackner & McGrath
Gevurtz Menashe
Gresham Family & Bankruptcy Law
Harrang Long Gary Rudnick PC
Jurva Martin PC
K & L Gates LLP
Kivel & Howard LLP
Knauerhase Law Office
Koch Law LLC
Kramer & Associates
Lane Powell PC
Law Office of Gary Underwood Scharff
Law Offices of Julie D. Elkins
Law Works LLC
Lee O. Tyler, PC
Leonard Law Group
Lindsay Hart LLP
Lisa Kenn Family Law, LLC
Lissa Kaufman Law LLC
Littler Mendelson
Maloney Lauersdorf Reiner PC
Markowitz Herbold PC
McKean Smith LLC
Mersenne Law LLP
Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP
MKB Lawyers
Pacific Family Law Firm
Parker Butte & Lane PC
Patricia Ferrell-French, Attorney at Law
Pearl Law LLC
Perkins Coie LLP
Piucci Law Firm
Professional Liability Fund
PSU Student Legal Services
Richardson Wright LLP
Rizzo Mattingly Bosworth PC
Schantz Law PC
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC
Stoel Rives LLP
Stoll Berne
Swider Haver LLP
The Law Firm of Peter Bunch
Todd Trierweiler & Associates
Tonkon Torp LLP
Vangelisti Mediation
Waxler & Le Immigration Law LLC
Williams Kastner Greene & Markley PC
Wyse Kadish LLP
Yates Family Law PC
Yunus Muhammad Paisner Attorney at Law



“Members in our community are hurting in a profound way, in particular our Black, Indigenous and other community members of color. The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated longstanding racial inequalities and disparities. Now, more than ever, we need to continue and expand our commitment to doing pro bono work to ensure fairness, access, and equality for all; and we need to do so with greater compassion, empathy, and understanding. It is the just and right thing to do.”

*Valerie Colas
2020-21 MBA President*



“Now, more than ever, the need for pro bono services has drastically outstripped the supply of lawyers providing pro bono services. Even prior to COVID-19, Legal Aid was only meeting about 15% of the civil legal needs of low-income Oregonians. Additionally, providing pro bono services is an excellent opportunity to grow a any attorney’s skills and practice areas. It can also be some of the most interesting and satisfying services that we as attorneys can provide.”

*Brad Krupicka
2020-21 YLS President*

Resources

To aid you in fulfilling your pledge, consult the following resources:

- **The Multnomah Bar Association Pro Bono Pledge**
Downloadable versions of both the individual and firm pro bono pledges.
www.mbabar.org/probonopledge
- **Pro Bono Opportunities**
A listing of various pro bono opportunities available in Multnomah County.
www.mbabar.org/probono
- **Pro Bono Policy Toolkit**
An online resource to help your firm create a written pro bono policy.
www.osbar.org/probono
- **Pro Bono Oregon Listserv**
Allows attorneys to select pro bono cases online from a list emailed weekly.
www.oregonadvocates.org



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