

## **BENEFITS OF PRO BONO FOR LAW FIRMS**

### GOALS

- ◆ Serves interest of law firm and lawyers in law firms
- ◆ Consistent with firm's, skill sets, other practice areas and internal operations
- ◆ Sustainable
- ◆ Value added

### **FIRST, HOW IS PRO BONO DEFINED?\***

- ◆ Narrow—Legal Services to (i) low income individuals (directly or through a NGO) and/or (ii) NGOs as entities working with the low income population
- ◆ Broad—Some or all of the first category plus legal services to non-profit groups working on public interest issues not confined to the low-income population (Civil liberties, environmental, handicap accessibility, etc)
- ◆ Broader—Some or all of the first two categories plus activities related to improvements in the legal and judicial system (usually not involving the use of legal skills but reliant on working knowledge of the legal and judicial system)
- ◆ Broadest—Some or all of the first three categories plus activities serving on non-profit boards and the like (again, not normally involving the particular use of legal skills).

\* Credit to Esther Lardent, the Pro Bono Institute, for these definitions

## **SERVES INTEREST OF LAW FIRM AND FIRM'S LAWYERS**

- ◆ Reputation of Firm
- ◆ Fulfillment of Ethical Responsibilities
- ◆ Recruitment
- ◆ Training
- ◆ External networking
- ◆ Morale

## **CONSISTENCY WITH THE FIRM**

- ◆ Cannot create client or “business “ conflicts
- ◆ Compatible with firm’s and lawyer’s skill sets and interest
- ◆ Can be done efficiently (NGO can help here)

## **SUSTAINABLE**

- ◆ Does not “break the bank” ( % of overall hours for pro bono) or stretch the envelope beyond community “norm”
- ◆ Senior support
- ◆ Widely supported within firm

## **VALUE ADDED**

- ◆ Delivered services create value for the client
- ◆ Satisfaction and Sainthood

