

Pro Bono Development in Poland

The **Legal Clinics Foundation (Fundację Uniwersyteckich Poradni Prawnych)** develops pro bono legal services in Poland. Among its activities are management of clearinghouse Centrum Pro Bono and annual Lawyer Pro Bono Award. The Foundation was also among the initiators of Pro Bono Declaration signed by 10 international law firms with offices in Poland. For more information in English please see: http://www.fupp.org.pl/index_eng.php?id=probono2004eng.

Centrum Pro Bono (<http://www.centrumprobono.pl/en/>)

The Centrum Pro Bono serves as clearinghouse and was established to meet legal needs of NGOs in Poland. Professional legal services are something very few of the NGOs can afford. The Centrum Pro Bono therefore helps to link NGOs with law firms willing to provide pro bono legal services. The Centrum is intended to serve NGOs only (not individual clients) in matters concerning their operational issues (such as statutes, taxes, civil and commercial contracts, administrative law, employment issues etc.) Centrum Pro Bono transmits requests of NGOs for pro bono legal services to law firms. Law firms are offered a list of issues from which they can choose pro bono request best suiting their fields of specialization and the company's image. The Centrum Pro Bono is managed by the Legal Clinics Foundation, however its initiators were four non-governmental organizations the University Legal Clinics Foundation, the Ashoka Foundation, the Helsinki Foundation of Human Rights and the Public Interest Law Institute.

Pro Bono Declaration (in English at <http://www.pili.org/en/content/view/585/272/>)

The Pro Bono declaration as a public affirmation of law firms' commitment to the provision of legal services to the poor was signed on a Roundtable on Pro Bono in Poland, held in Warsaw on June 22, 2007. The Declaration was signed by following law firms:

- Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone
- Allen & Overy
- Chadbourne & Parke LLP
- Pocij & Dubois
- Leśnodorski Ślusarek i Wspólnicy
- Sołtysiński, Kawecki Szlęzak
- Hogan & Hartson
- Salans
- Wardyński i Wspólnicy
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges

For more in English information please see: <http://www.pili.org/en/content/view/585/272/>.

Lawyer Pro Bono Award

The Foundation promotes the issue of involvement of lawyers in pro bono work by awarding annually Lawyer Pro Bono Award to lawyers providing free of charge and voluntary legal services to individuals, social organizations or institutions.

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