



## LAWYER TO LAWYER MENTORING PROGRAM

### WORKSHEET G

## INTRODUCTION TO PRO BONO, CIVIC AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Worksheet G is intended to facilitate a discussion about pro bono agencies and opportunities, as well as civic and charitable work.

### WHAT WENT WELL?

Start by sharing with each other a brief story of something that went well in your practice this week:

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Share your reflection by on one of these questions: What caused the good event? What does it mean? How did you contribute? Others? How can you have more such events in the future?

### ACTIVITIES FOR TODAY

- Read the Supreme Court of Tennessee's Statement Regarding Pro Bono Services, which is provided below. Discover the pro bono opportunities offered in your geographical area and area of practice in <http://apps.americanbar.org/legal services/probono/directory/tennessee.html>
- Discuss why it is so important to provide pro bono representation and why this responsibility is included in the *A Lawyer's Creed* and *A Lawyer's Aspirational Ideals*, excerpts of which are provide below. Read and discuss the attached article *The Tennessee Bar Association's Pro Bono Strategy*.
- Discuss the types of pro bono and other charitable activities the mentor engages in and why s/he does so. What tangible and intangible benefits does the mentor find that offsets the investment of time and resources?
- Discuss opportunities for other types of charitable and civic work.
- Discuss how pro bono work contributes to or detracts from having balance in the mentor's life.
- Read the attached article and discuss the different ways to provide service. Marilyn Astin Tarlton, *What Gives? 21 Ways Lawyers Can Give Back – Every Day*, LAW PRACTICE TODAY, Sept. 2005.
- Invite the new lawyer to attend a meeting of a charitable or civic organization in which the mentor is involved, or invite the new lawyer to participate in a pro bono



activity with the mentor (if appropriate).

- To the extent possible, introduce the new lawyer to those involved in an organization where the new lawyer is interested in volunteering.

## **ACTION STEPS**

End the session by discussing what action steps you can take to either improve or set yourself up for future success based on today's discussion. Discuss how one or more of your Signature Strengths can help you achieve success in these steps.

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## **RESOURCES**

### **SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE'S STATEMENT REGARDING PRO BONO SERVICES BY CHIEF JUSTICE CORNELIA A. CLARK**

By now we hope our call to action is clear. If you believe, as I do, that a community is only as strong as the justice it provides to its weakest citizens, then you know there is much to be done.

What can we do to improve the odds of justice for our least-advantaged citizens? Today we have heard hundreds of answers. But if you are a lawyer, the answer is simple---remember our basic obligation as lawyer-citizens. The comments to Rule 6.1 are instructive. "Every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, has a responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer."

On the day you received your license to practice law—or, as Doug Blaze reminded us, from the day you arrived at law school-- you joined an honorable and unique profession. Ours is the only profession I know which creates by conduct code a regular expectation of free service to those whose needs are great and whose means are limited. Bill Robinson and the ABA call it Lawyers Giving Back. If we are truly to live up to the "common calling to promote the public good"; if we are to have any hope of providing liberty and justice for all; then we must embrace, and celebrate, our obligation to devote professional time and civic influence on behalf of our brothers and sisters who need our help. The Tennessee Supreme Court believes that pro bono service is critical to **each attorney's fulfillment of his or her obligation** to the profession.

But not everyone here is a lawyer. Support of pro bono efforts by other community leaders is also necessary if we are to be successful. As Dave Yoder noted in a breakout session,



"Justice isn't just us." So I know the nonlawyer business and professional leaders who are here also appreciate their obligation to live up to the common calling to promote the public good.

I applaud all of you in this room who step forward today to take up the cause of justice for all persons and carry it proudly to your colleagues in the wider community. I challenge each of us to do our duty as lawyers, and our duty as community leaders, to celebrate the opportunity to advance those ideals which can truly make our community better: to promote justice and the public good. As you leave here today the power of pro bono is in your hands and in your heart. I am confident you will carry it well as you help lead the rest of our world not only to where they want to go, but also to where they need to be.

January 21, 2011

Excerpts from **A LAWYER'S CREED**:

**To the profession,** I offer assistance in keeping it a calling in the spirit of public service, and in promoting its understanding and an appreciation for it by the public. I recognize that my actions and demeanor reflect upon our system of justice and our profession, and I shall conduct myself accordingly.

**To the public and our system of justice,** I offer service. I shall devote some of my time and skills to community, governmental and other activities that promote the common good. I shall strive to improve the law and our legal system and to make the law and our legal system available to all.

Excerpts from **A LAWYER'S ASPIRATIONAL IDEALS**:

**As to our profession**, I shall aspire:

(a) To improve the practice of law. I should:

- 1) Assist in continuing legal education efforts;
- 2) Assist in organized bar activities;
- 3) Assist law schools in the education of our future lawyers; and
- 4) Assist the judiciary in achieving objectives of **A Lawyer's Creed and these Aspirational Ideals**.

(b) To promote the understanding of and an appreciation for our profession by the public. I should:

- 1) Use appropriate opportunities, publicly and privately, to comment upon the roles of lawyers in society and government, as well as in our system of justice; and
- 2) Conduct myself always with an awareness that my actions and demeanor reflect upon our profession.

(c) To devote some of my time and skills to community, governmental and other activities that promote the common good.



**As to the public and our system of justice**, I shall aspire:

- (a) To consider the effect of my conduct on the image of our system of justice, including the effect of advertising methods.
  - (b) To help provide the pro bono representation that is necessary to make our system of justice available to all.
  - (c) To support organizations that provide pro bono representation to indigent clients.
  - (d) To promote equality for all persons.
  - (e) To improve our laws and legal system by, for example:
    - 1) Serving as a public official;
    - 2) Assisting in the education of the public concerning our laws and legal system;
    - 3) Commenting publicly upon our laws; and
    - 4) Using other appropriate methods of effecting positive change in our laws and legal system.
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