

MEMO

TO: All Lawyers and Paralegals
FROM: Pro Bono Committee
DATE: March 31, 1998
SUBJECT: Pro Bono Policy

At the February 24, 1992 Board Meeting, the Board of Directors adopted a Firm policy on pro bono publico legal services. That policy is attached. It became effective June 1, 1992.

In order to help implement this policy, the Firm appointed a Pro Bono Committee. The committee is made up of two litigation shareholders, one non-litigation shareholder, one associate and a non-lawyer pro bono Coordinator.

Any questions regarding policy or procedures pertaining to Pro Bono can be directed to anyone on the Pro Bono Committee.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.
PRO BONO POLICY
Effective June 1, 1992

A lawyer should render public interest legal service. A lawyer may discharge this responsibility by providing professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of limited means or to public service or charitable groups or organizations, by service in activities for improving financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.

Rule 6.1, Rules of Professional Conduct

The comment to this rule includes the following statement:

Every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, should find time to participate in or otherwise support the provision of legal services to the disadvantaged.

The firm believes that it is a part of a lawyer's professional responsibilities to provide free legal services for the benefit of the community i.e., pro bono publico legal services. The firm wishes to create an environment in which its lawyers will be encouraged to meet their responsibility by handling pro bono matters. Moreover, the exposure to areas of law, procedures, clients and experiences available in pro bono work results in the development of a lawyer of increased depth, understanding and ability. Our firm has a strong tradition of public service. The purpose of this statement of policy is to help continue and strengthen that tradition.

Pro Bono services include the rendition of professional legal services without compensation for the purpose of providing some public benefit. For example, legal services may be provided to a segment of the public not otherwise served adequately, e.g., the poor and others who are otherwise unable to qualify for other funded legal service assistance. Pro bono services may also be rendered to independent, non-profit organizations which provide legal or other free services benefiting the public. In addition, the firm's resources may be devoted to cases of broader significance for the entire populace, e.g., so-called "impact" and "law reform" cases. This list is by no means exclusive.

Pro bono services should not be confused with other worthy services performed without compensation. For example, services as an officer or director of a charitable or civic organization does not generally qualify. Similarly, involvement in professional activities is a separate matter not within the definition of pro bono services unless those activities are directed to improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession.