



TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono - Regional Analysis

United States

Thirty two firms with offices in the United States submitted information on their pro bono practices for inclusion in the 2016 Index. Participating law firms represent almost 24,000 lawyers, who donated 1.75 million hours of pro bono legal services during the 12 month reporting period. On average, fee earners in the United States provided 72.9 hours of pro bono assistance each, in alignment with the 2015 Index where lawyers reported 72.8 hours, but a slight drop from the 75.0 hours reported in the 2014 Index. This trend mirrors data collected by national U.S. pro bono surveys.¹

Nevertheless, the United States continues to lead internationally in the provision of pro bono legal services. Many U.S. law firms incentivise pro bono participation on the part of employees with monetary compensation, recognition, or both. As a result of the professional emphasis on the importance of providing free legal assistance, lawyers who participate in pro bono work generally give at least ten hours of their time to such initiatives annually. Consistent with previous years, the 2016 Index findings suggest that 72.0 percent of lawyers provided ten or more hours of pro bono work.

Partners at law firms based in the United States also maintain high levels of pro bono participation. This year, partners provided an average of 37.2 hours of free legal assistance, a slight increase than the 34.6 hours reported in 2015. Similarly, 74.7 percent of partners reported investing some time in pro bono initiatives in the 2016 Index, compared to 73.7 percent in the 2015 Index.

The United States is home to a robust and diverse pro bono community, with law firms, bar associations, and intermediary organisations driving growth around the country. Pro bono practices have continued to expand over the past few years, thanks in large part to increasing standards from local bar associations and law firms. After New York became the first state to require qualifying hours of pro bono service for state bar admission in 2015, several other states have begun considering similar proposals. As these local standards

¹ <http://www.americanlawyer.com/id=1202730400870/Pro-Bono-Report-2015-Treading-Water;>

have developed, national and international law firms have disseminated these practices across their various offices and have driven further growth in pro bono across the country and the world.

Nonetheless, significant need for legal assistance still exists across the country, and there is no shortage of opportunities at all levels for attorneys to engage. The Pro Bono Institute and the Association of Pro Bono Counsel, among others, have helped to make pro bono a standard practice among firms nationwide, and continue to be at the forefront as the field diversifies. Increasing numbers of corporate attorneys and in-house counsels are engaging in pro bono work, and the dramatic growth of the social enterprise sector has increased opportunities for engagement. Defining how these new players can engage with the pro bono sector offers significant opportunities and challenges that firms and intermediary organisations will continue to tackle in the coming years.

Legal matters that have drawn notable pro bono support over the last 12 months include issues that have remained at the top of the agenda from previous years, such as immigration and human trafficking. In January 2016, a victim of human trafficking achieved a successful settlement in a federal court case brought in New York against her abusers. She was represented by pro bono lawyers, who were connected with the client through the City Bar Justice Center, an initiative of the New York City Bar Association.²

Political leaders and legal organisations are also promoting innovative approaches to pro bono legal work that aim to close the justice gap. Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois addressed the annual meeting of the American Bar Association (ABA) in August 2016, where he encouraged lawyers to "... keep up the pro bono work. It matters... it can make a life-changing difference."³

² <http://www2.nycbar.org/citybarjusticecenter/blog/2016/01/22/human-trafficking-victim-obtains-successful-settlement-in-federal-court/>

³ http://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2015/08/sen_durbin_urgspr.html

UNITED STATES

FIRM NAME	COUNTRY	AVERAGE HOURS PER FEE EARNER	FEE EARNERS WITH 10+ HOURS OF PRO BONO (%)
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP	United States	84.25	67.14
Arnold & Porter LLP	United States	117.94	89.30
Ashurst	United States	10.26	21.95
Atsumi & Sakai	United States	0.00	0.00
Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP	United States	45.49	32.35
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP	United States	91.53	67.92
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	United States	36.23	47.46
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP	United States	117.49	68.94
Dechert	United States	75.60	99.24
DLA Piper	United States	72.46	83.03
Duane Morris LLP	United States	33.57	57.36
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP	United States	62.25	-
Hogan Lovells	United States	78.77	91.02
Holland & Knight LLP	United States	50.95	64.47
K & L Gates LLP	United States	44.66	45.27
Kirkland & Ellis LLP	United States	72.27	79.19
Latham & Watkins LLP	United States	80.98	75.59
Linklaters LLP	United States	77.25	70.59
Mayer Brown International LLP	United States	53.52	53.48
McDermott Will & Emery LLP	United States	60.13	66.71
Morrison and Foerster	United States	104.67	69.65
Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe LLP	United States	91.56	94.68
Paul Hastings	United States	89.53	98.96
Reed Smith LLP	United States	51.45	61.40
Ropes & Gray LLP	United States	86.01	70.85
Seyfarth Shaw LLP	United States	19.47	42.18
Shearman & Sterling LLP	United States	63.93	90.51
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP	United States	99.35	87.55
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP	United States	24.63	25.49
White and Case	United States	79.93	79.62
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP	United States	96.91	76.31
Winston & Strawn LLP	United States	64.02	79.95