



The Virginia Bar Association

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

VBA PRO BONO SERVANT
Individual Commitment of Time and Talent
for Calendar Year 2005

As a licensed, certificated or registered lawyer in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in order to support my profession in its efforts to better serve the public good, and particularly to assist in providing pro bono publico legal services to those in financial need, I hereby volunteer personally to provide at least 50 hours of pro bono publico legal services, as defined by Rule 6.1(a) of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct, as set forth below, during calendar year 2005. I understand that pro bono publico legal services which I provide and which I count toward satisfying the requirements of becoming a VBA Pro Bono Servant may not be counted toward satisfying the requirements for becoming a VBA Community Servant. I understand that this is a voluntary commitment. I also understand that I will be responsible for keeping track of the time I dedicate to these efforts, and for providing my personal certification that I have met this commitment.

By:
Name:
Firm/Employer:
Address:
Phone: E-mail:

May we publish your name as having made the commitment? Yes No

PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE DEFINED (Rule 6.1(a) of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct): A lawyer should render at least two percent per year of the lawyer's professional time to pro bono publico legal services. Pro bono publico services include poverty law, civil rights law, public interest law, and volunteer activities designed to increase availability of pro bono legal services. Comment: [1] Every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional work load, has a personal 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. The Council for the Virginia State Bar urges all Virginia lawyers to contribute a minimum of two percent of their professional time annually to pro bono services. Pro bono legal services consist of any professional services for which the lawyer would ordinarily be compensated, including dispute resolution as a mediator or third party neutral. [2] Pro bono services in poverty law consist of free or nominal fee professional services for people who do not have the financial resources to compensate a lawyer. Private attorneys participating in legal aid referral programs are typical examples of "poverty law." Legal services for persons whose incomes exceed legal aid guidelines, but who nevertheless have insufficient resources to compensate counsel, would also qualify as "poverty law," provided the free or nominal fee nature of any such legal work is established in advance. [3] Pro bono publico services in civil rights law consist of free or nominal fee professional services to assert or protect rights of individuals in which society has an interest. Professional services to assert or protect for victims of discrimination based on race, sex, age or handicap would be typical examples of "civil rights law," provided the free or nominal nature of any such legal work would be established in advance. [4] Free or nominal fee provision of legal services to religious, charitable or civic groups in efforts such as setting up a shelter for the homeless, operating a hotline for battered spouses or providing public service information would be examples of "public interest law." [5] Training and mentoring lawyers who have volunteered to take legal aid referrals or helping recruit lawyers for pro bono referral programs would be examples of "volunteer activities designed to increase availability of pro bono legal services. [6] Service in any of the categories described is not pro bono publico if provided on a contingent fee basis. Because service must be provided without fee or expectation of fee, the intent of the lawyer to render free or nominal fee legal services is essential. Accordingly, services for which fees go uncollected would not qualify.

Please submit this form by mail to The Virginia Bar Association, 701 East Franklin Street, Suite 1120, Richmond, VA 23219, or fax it to (804) 644-0052. Questions may be directed to the VBA office at (804) 644-0041.



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**VBA COMMUNITY SERVANT
Individual Commitment of Time and Talent
for Calendar Year 2005**

As a licensed, certificated or registered lawyer in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in order to support my profession in its efforts to better serve the public good, and particularly to assist in aiding the communities in which I live and work, I hereby volunteer personally to provide at least 50 hours of community service, as defined below, during calendar year 2005. I understand that pro bono publico legal services which I provide and which I count toward satisfying the requirements of becoming a VBA Community Servant may not be counted toward satisfying the requirements for becoming a VBA Pro Bono Servant. I understand that this is a voluntary commitment. I also understand that I will be responsible for keeping track of the time I dedicate to these efforts, and for providing my personal certification that I have met this commitment.

By:
Name: _____

Firm/Employer: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

May we publish your name as having made the commitment? ____ Yes ____ No

COMMUNITY SERVICE DEFINED: Work qualifying as “community service work” will include the provision of voluntary assistance, undertaken without expectation of a fee, and not in the course of ordinary commercial practice, to charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations or causes or for the good of the community, and which does not constitute a family, religious, political or social obligation. Community service may include the provision of legal services which satisfy this definition, regardless of whether they qualify as pro bono publico legal services as that term is defined by Rule 6.1(a) of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct.