



Pro Bono Network Opportunities for New Board and Committee Members

Like most places in the country, the legal bar in northern Illinois is unable to provide enough free legal assistance to satisfy the growing demand by those in need. The irony is that many attorneys in Chicagoland want to provide pro bono legal services but lack a workable model to do so.

Pro Bono Network (“PBN”) partners with existing legal aid agencies to expand or adapt pro bono programs that will fit within the time constraints of the volunteer attorneys’ schedules. We remove the barriers that would otherwise prevent attorneys from volunteering by providing flexible hours, matters with limited time commitment, trainings, attorney back up, and malpractice insurance. PBN works closely with the legal aid agencies to keep the projects running smoothly for our volunteers. We assist with supervising, mentoring, administrative matters, troubleshooting, and ongoing training. Since its inception in early 2011, PBN has partnered with 11 legal agencies and grown to more than 400 attorneys who have provided more than 26,000 volunteer hours to low-income individuals in need of legal aid throughout the Chicagoland area.

PBN leadership understands that our organization is best able to serve its volunteers and legal aid clients by having all voices represented and our mission widely shared. Therefore, **PBN’s board is always eager to meet with interested new board member prospects who will introduce new ideas, new perspectives, and new spheres of influence.**

PBN is a small organization that operates with great efficiency because of the working relationship between staff and the board. Our board committees are designed to complement the staff positions and duties while functioning in a supporting role. However, there are some instances when a board committee might take the lead on a task or project.

Generally, PBN board members are expected to (1) attend and participate in monthly full board meetings, (2) participate on one or more committees outside of the monthly meetings, (3) support the long-term viability of PBN by adopting plans, policies, and strategies to achieve organizational goals and objectives, monitoring progress in implementation, and evaluating outcomes, (4) act as ambassadors of our mission by attending social or fundraising events and inviting others to join, (5) financially contribute personally to PBN in a meaningful way, and (6) solicit financial support from their own contacts, both individual and corporate

We also offer opportunities to join certain PBN committees without becoming a board member, in order to meet our needs and the needs of potential members.

If joining the PBN board or a committee aligns with your own interests and you would like to learn more about the opportunity or PBN’s current board recruitment needs, please reach out to our Executive Director, Linda Rio at linda.rio@pro-bono-network.org or Board Governance Chair, Deb Abrahamson at deb.j.abrahamson@gmail.com.