

Fact Sheet

What is “pro bono law”?

The term “pro bono” is taken from the latin *pro bono publico*, meaning “for the public good”; in legal terms, it means representing someone free of charge.

What is the difference between pro bono law services and legal aid?

Pro bono law services fill in the gaps where legal needs exist but are unmet by existing legal aid. The guiding principle behind every project developed by PBLO is that services must complement and not duplicate, legal aid services.

How many pro bono initiatives has PBLO developed to date?

Over 33 registered PBLO projects are in various stages of development

What is the estimated number of clients who have been served as a result of PBLO programming?

Approximately 2,000 clients have been served to date.

Who are the mid to large law firms in Ontario that have embraced pro bono law policies?

To date, PBLO has developed and/or finalized pro bono policies for:

<p>Baker & McKenzie Blake Cassels & Graydon Borden Ladner Gervais Fasken Martineau DuMoulin Gowling Lafleur Henderson Lerners McCarthy Tetrault</p>	<p>Miller Thomson Osler Hoskin & Harcourt Shearman & Sterling Stikeman Elliot Torkin Manes Cohen Arbus Torys WeirFoulds</p>
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What happened before “organized” pro bono law came to Ontario?

Pro bono services existed but occurred sporadically and according to individual effort and conscience.