

PRO BONO DEFINITIONS – WHAT COUNTS?

Pro Bono Institute	VOLS	ABA Rule 6.1 (for reference purposes – not for reporting)
As used in this statement, the term pro bono refers to activities of the firm undertaken normally without expectation of fee and not in the course of ordinary commercial practice and consisting of: (a) the delivery of legal services to persons of limited means or to charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters which are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means; (b) the provision of legal assistance to individuals, groups, or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights; and (c) the provision of legal assistance to charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental or educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, where the payment of standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would be otherwise inappropriate. * NOTE: This definition is used for reporting both to the Pro Bono Institute and to the American Lawyer. Summer associate and paralegal time is included for PBI reporting, but NOT for AmLaw.	Qualifying services shall consist of professional activities provided without fee which fall into one or more of the following categories: (a) Professional services rendered in civil matters, and in those criminal matters for which there is no government obligation to provide funds for legal representation, to persons who are financially unable to compensate counsel. (b) activities related to the improvement of the administration of justice by simplifying the legal process for, or increasing the availability and quality of legal services to, poor persons. (c) professional services to charitable, religious, civic, and educational organizations in matters which are designed predominantly to address the needs of poor persons. (d) public interest law work (e.g. for such organizations as NYLPI, LANY, or the NAACP LDEF), as well as volunteer work in the offices of the corporation counsel or a district attorney. * NOTE: This definition counts only time on matters done in the NYC office.	(a) legal services without fee or expectation of fee to: (1) persons of limited means or (2) charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters which are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means; (b) additional services: (1) delivery of legal services at no fee or substantially reduced fee to individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights, or charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, where the payment of standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would be otherwise inappropriate; (2) delivery of legal services at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means; or (3) participation in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession.