

2017 APBCo Academy Take-Aways
October 3rd & 4th, 2017

DAY 1

<i>Pro Bono as Crisis Response: Real-Time Pro Bono Design & Management</i>	Checklist will be forthcoming.
<i>Best of the Best: Highly Recommended U.S. Pro Bono Projects</i>	Here's where to check out the full Best of the Best list: https://www.apbco.org/resource/best-best-highly-recommended-pro-bono-projects-around-country
<i>Sound Bites: Planning for Encounters with the Press & Confronting the Realities of Social Media</i>	Please see attached.
<i>The Politics of Pro Bono: Navigating Controversial Matters in 2017 & Beyond</i>	<p>1. The sheer volume of pro bono issues arising in opposition to the policies of the current Administration certainly has created an overtone that might lead some to conclude that pro bono programs have become overtly partisan. However, law firms are still focusing on helping vulnerable people and in that vein immigration, and other similarly “hot button issues, remain, as they always have been, a pro bono staple of many firms. In reality, the acceptance and handling of pro bono matters continues to be “business as usual”. It is incumbent upon us to find ways of communicating that fact.</p> <p>2. A note of important caution -- the standards of practice we set now, in this unique moment, will be the standards to which we will be held when there is a change in the political landscape.</p> <p>3. We are struggling with the tension between the business interests of our commercial law firms and the social justice interests of our pro bono programs, right and wrong may not always be the measure of our involvement. It's important to note the presence of the tension that exists between focusing on access to justice and impact litigation as well.</p> <p>4. The confluence of business issues and the way we see our role at the firm is underscored by this new dynamic. A question arises about our roles and whether we see ourselves as promoting access to justice or whether we should be agents of change and social justice, whether we should focus on those day-to-day access to justice issues or whether we should focus on more wider-impact litigation, and how the political climate, both in the country and in our firms, drives these tensions.</p>

DAY 2

Sanctuary Cities: What's Going On... and What Can We Do About It?

1. Scot Fishman will be working with LA City General Counsel division to draft an email to all counsel representing sanctuary jurisdictions regarding APBCo firms' willingness to advise them.

2. Similarly, we will be reactivating the list of APBCo members interested in assisting sanctuary cities so that we have a more streamlined way to match APBCo firms with counsel representing sanctuary jurisdictions.

3. A partner at Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett, LLP is sending daily summary e-mails regarding immigration civil rights litigations. Reach out to Harlene Katzman (HKatzman@stblaw.com) if you'd like to be placed on this distribution list.

Voting Rights Now: A Kobach Covfefe

1. Election Official program - the Brennan Center and Lawyers Committee have partnered with APBCO on a project to recruit more lawyers to become election officials - actually working at the polls on Election Day to facilitate voting. APBCO firms have produced election official toolkits for all 50 states, which are currently being reviewed. Stay tuned for roll out.

2. Lawyers for Good Government and Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights are recruiting lawyers and law students to act as voting rights watch dogs in every county in the country. The goal is to have a year-round monitor for the election administration in every county in the country so that problems such as roll purges, accessibility, closure of polling places can be addressed before they impact others on Election Day. Sign up is here: <http://signup.lawyersforgoodgovernment.org/>

3. Felon disenfranchisement - some states (Florida, Virginia) disenfranchise felons and require them to jump through procedural hurdles such as obtaining a certification or re-registering. We are starting to identify states where there are opportunities to assist in restoring this important right.

4. Vote Riders is a nonpartisan effort to assist voters to obtain the required ID needed to vote in strict ID states, since voter ID laws tend to disproportionately affect low income, elderly and minority voters. The assistance needed varies from state to state, but often involves obtaining birth certificates. The Vote Riders website provides information about ID requirements in every state. See www.voteriders.org<<http://www.voteriders.org>>. It also has a template for running an ID clinic. Vote Riders current focus is the Virginia elections, but it will highlight 12 additional states for 2018. APBCO has partnered with VoteRiders to identify counsel for individual voters experiencing difficulty in registering to vote or obtain voter ID.

We Will Survive: APBCo's Role in

1. Provide training on current legal issues facing the transgender

<p><i>Advancing LGBTQ Rights & Protections</i></p>	<p>community. The taskforce will work with an outside expert to provide training on current legal issues facing the transgender community. The training will likely be given via a webinar to members and, perhaps, select attorneys from members' firms.</p> <p>2. Create a list of transgender name/gender marker change clinics. These clinics provide a good, limited-scope, opportunity for attorneys to help the transgender community. And, they seem relatively non-controversial, even in some more conservative areas of the U.S. We hope to create a list of well-known, and lesser-known, clinics that provide this service. We hope to identify clinics (or service-providers), who could use more volunteers and perhaps also identify areas of the country where this service is not provided to see if we can try to find a way to meet the local need.</p> <p>3. Determine if there is a need for more firms to help with cases defending progressive LGBTQ school policies. Some members are handling cases helping defend school district policies that are LGBTQ-friendly. We are investigating whether there is a need for more firms to do this type of work around the country. We might also see if there is a way for APBCo to play a role in helping to get other school districts to adopt these policies.</p> <p>4. Connect with corporate counsel. In discussing the need for allies in our LGBTQ work, we determined that some of our corporate clients may be the best allies we have, given their support in this area. We plan to connect with the ACC, to see if there is a way to work together on these issues. We will consider exploring other alliances as well.</p> <p>5. Prepare For possible statement of LGBTQ support. Related to the above connection w/ the ACC, a lot of our member's firms take comfort in being part of movements when they see that other firms are already involved. We will explores ways to prepare ourselves so that we can quickly galvanize a list of supporters (members and/or member firms), if we need to respond to negative action against the LGBTQ community.</p> <p>6. Track litigation and executive actions. We are considering a process by which members can share information about cases they are working on. This would be particularly helpful for cases at the trial court level in state court. We are also considering a way to track executive actions that may not already be in litigation.</p>
<p><i>Staffing Survey</i></p>	<p>Please see attached.</p>
<p><i>Current Events</i></p>	<p>Please see attached for the PowerPoint as well as the attached document which links to sign ups to assist with the various disaster areas.</p>
<p><i>Fireside Chatter</i></p>	<p>1. As a community, we need to do better in producing data regarding</p>

our pro bono work. A number of firms currently do not use a database (Pro Bono Manager or a self-developed system) through which information can be obtained regarding the type of work our lawyers do. *If any firms are interested in approaching Pro Bono Manager together to see if we can them to discount the current rates, please contact Scot Fishman.*

2. A group of members will be drafting a possible editorial regarding a trend in pro bono staffing positions.

3. Members of the NYC “Unconference” raised the idea of inviting NY-based legal aid partners to the event in 2018. No one voiced opposition with that suggestion.