

BUILDING CULTURES OF PRO BONO IN VIETNAM

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WAYS AND MEANS TO DEVELOP PRO BONO CULTURE

1. Legal aid law, Law on Lawyers.
2. Raising awareness

WAYS AND MEANS TO DEVELOP PRO BONO CULTURE

Pro bono legal aid is a pride goes together with responsibility.

Free legal aid should be humane greatness, a social responsibility, not the grace of generosity.

2014 Probono conference in Vietnam

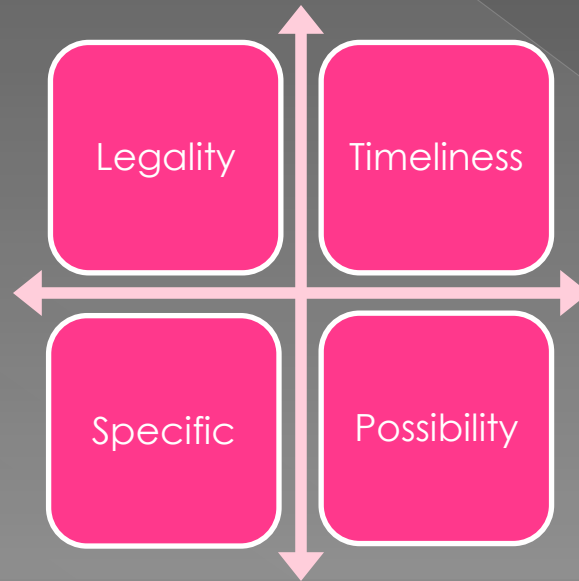
NG CỘNG SẢN VIỆT NAM QUANG VINH MUÔN NĂM



WAYS AND MEANS TO DEVELOP PRO BONO CULTURE

3. Developing relationship between legal aid providers and receivers

- Value of trust and respect;
- Rules of legal ethics and responsibility;



WAYS AND MEANS TO DEVELOP PRO BONO CULTURE

- A warm heart goes together with a qualified mind;



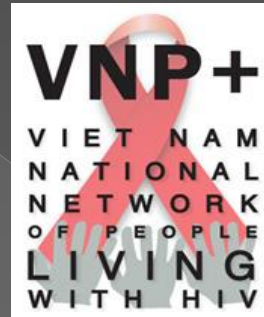
- Listening, understanding and sympathizing.

WAYS AND MEANS TO DEVELOP PRO BONO CULTURE

4. Educate pro-bono law students and pro-bono lawyers in the future



HIV AND THE LAW – LEARN ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS INITIATIVE



- (1) Bring law students, community trainers who have HIV, pro-bono lawyers together to break the gap between law schools, legal aid providers and the community.
- (2) “Learn about your rights” becomes a sustainable program in the university partners in the future.



CHALLENGES

- Quality and quantity of legal aid providers.
- 1 lawyer serves 14,000 citizens
- High demand of legal aid
- Imbalance in the distribution of lawyers between city and country.
- Legal procedures are complicated
- Friendly environment has not been paid enough attention.
- Legal aid services is simple.
- Supervision and evaluation
- Others: cost of living, understanding and sharing, timing...

SOLUTIONS

- Improve the law and the legal system
- Raising legal awareness and capacity for the legal aid providers, legal aid centers
- Increase the number of lawyers and legal aid providers
- Activities/competition to recognize the legal aid achievements
- Socialization of legal aid services
- CLE law student involvement

volunteer

pro-bono

non-billable

do-gooder

volunteers

charity

giving-back

sharing

right

paying-it-forward

paying-it-forword

caring

lawyers

thoughtful

selfless

others

sharing-the-love

donating

philanthropy

heartfelt

kind

attorney

giving

SINGAPORE

How we build our pro bono culture

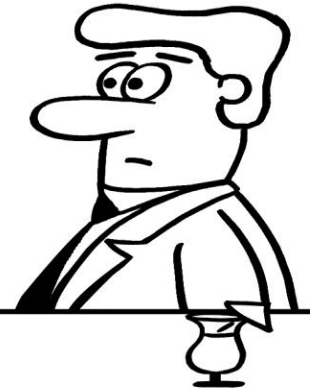
Practical Challenges

- Stress
- Heavy workload / long working hours
- Billing targets / unsupportive employers
- High cost of living
- Lack of appropriate communication skills
- Lack of suitable legal knowledge
- Lack of language abilities besides English
- Restrictions on lawyers in offshore firms



Why do you
want to take
a pro bono
case?

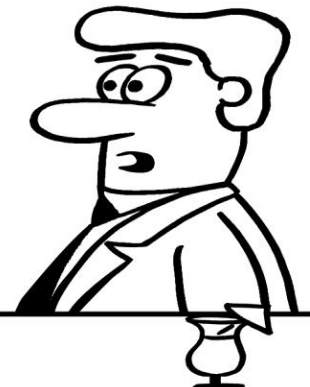
To do
something
good.



I don't
understand.



That's why
you're the
managing
partner.



Other Challenges

- Mindset – many lawyers do not realise the need for pro bono in a place like Singapore
- Background of lawyers – often privileged
 - Lack of understanding of “man on the street” issues
- The rat race for material enjoyment

There are always Solutions!

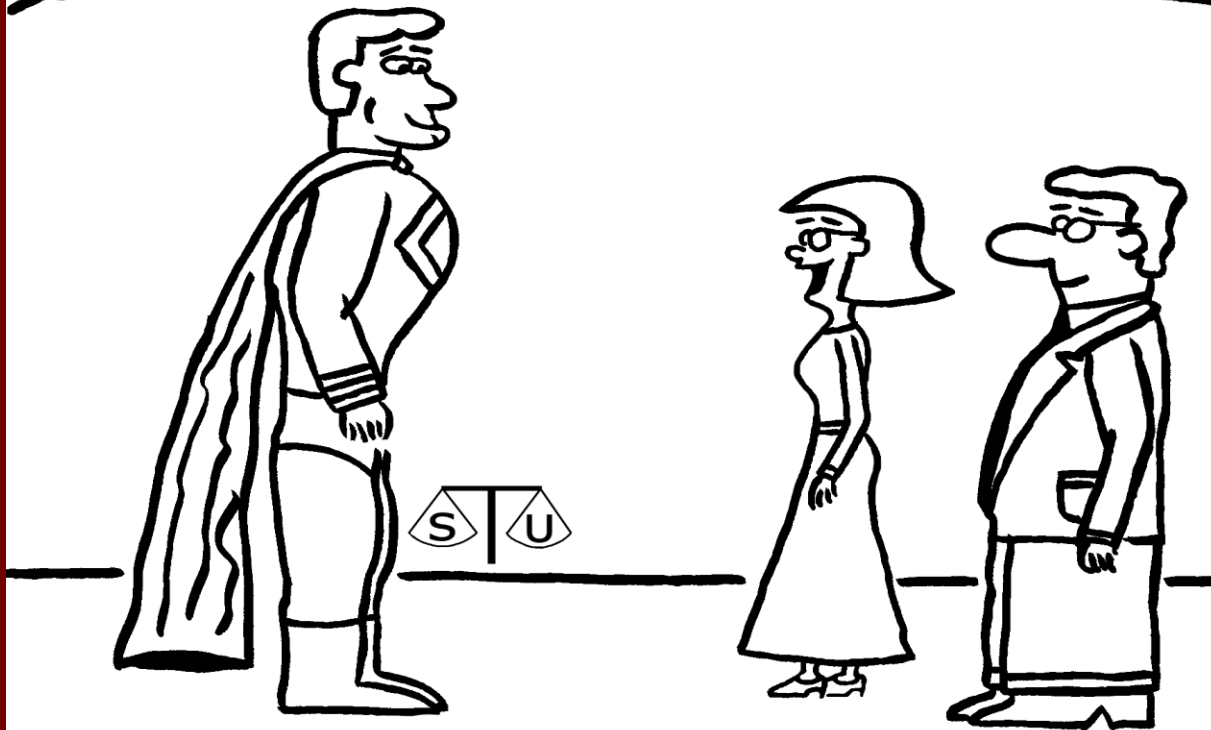
- Buy-in from law firms & employers
 - Need to keep lawyers happy
- Gaining your employers' trust
 - Need to keep your boss happy
 - Need to keep your job or you cannot practise!
- Learn effective time management & plan ahead
- Planting the seed early
 - Law school – pro bono groups, etc
 - Senior lawyers need to set good examples

and more Solutions!

- Pro bono manuals to guide lawyers
- Systems & infrastructure to help organise pro bono involvement
 - National Bar associations
 - Law firms / Corporates
- Sourcing for alternative / overseas opportunities to overcome restrictions
 - You can do pro bono in a million ways!

But as always, more needs to be done to encourage lawyers to be INVOLVED. Unless you take the first step, you may never SEE; you may never realise you can change someone's life for the BETTER.

Superhero Convention



"Us? No, we're not in disguise.
We're pro bono volunteers."