

## 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Pro Bono Conference and Legal Ethics Forum Session Presentation Plan Template

**Name of Session:** *A debate on whether student pro bono should be mandatory*

**Session Description/Aim:** *This session will discuss the pros and cons of mandatory student pro bono and engage the participants with critical thinking on the issue.*

**Materials List:**

*Timer  
Chart Paper  
PowerPoint*

**Total Session Minutes:** *(60 min)*

**Facilitators:**

1. Maxwell Abbott, (BABSEA CLE)
2. Tracey Atkinson, (BABSEA CLE)
3. VidjiaPhun, (Pannasastra University of Cambodia)

**Session Plan:**

<b>Activity Step</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Time (Min)</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Materials Needed</b>
1	Introduce debate session format and facilitators	5		
2	Facilitators briefly discuss the pro bono requirements for students in their home jurisdictions	5		PowerPoint
3	Facilitators split the participants into a pro-mandatory pro bono group and an anti-mandatory pro bono group	5		
4	Groups of participants gather to discuss their arguments and decide who will speak	10		Chart Paper Timer
5	Opening statements by each group	5		Timer
6	Facilitators ask questions of each side.	15		PowerPoint
7	Participants are asked to respond to the arguments of the opposing	10		

	side			
8	Facilitators conclude the debate	5		
<b>Total Time:</b>		<b>60</b>		

Questions/statements to get the teams to consider:

- For the pro-mandatory pro bono side:
  - Is allowing students to do Pro Bono a risk if they haven't yet qualified as lawyers?
  - Since many legal cases take years to resolve, does the reality that students often can't spend more than a semester at doing pro bono pose a problem for a pro bono requirement?
  - Shouldn't pro bono be for those who truly want to serve others?
  - Will students who are unhappy about being forced to do pro bono provide inadequate services?
  - Why should attorneys be required to supervise pro bono students instead of supervising clients? Won't their clients suffer?
  - How does doing Pro Bono make you an ethical lawyer? / Does doing Pro Bono make you an ethical lawyer?
  - Don't students have enough to do while in law school in this competitive legal marketplace? Will another requirement overburden them while providing no distinction they can use to get ahead in the legal economy?
  - Should the state pay lawyers who do Pro Bono work? Nothing is for free these days.
- For the anti-mandatory pro bono side:
  - Do you recognize that there is a need for increased pro bono services? If so, why wouldn't you support a measure that will clearly increase the amount of services available?
  - How do you propose students gain practical lawyering skills while in law school if not through pro bono?
  - Isn't service of others an obligation of all lawyers that has deep historical roots?
  - Can't students who are previously anti-pro bono change their minds when they engage with it?
  - Can mandatory pro bono foster a commitment to social justice and public service that the students will have throughout their careers that would not have existed without the pro bono requirement?
  - Doesn't pro bono provide students an unparalleled opportunity to explore a legal subject matter that they wouldn't have a chance to explore otherwise?
- Other general questions for both sides:
  - Lawyers who do Pro Bono consider themselves true altruists. Discuss this statement (for or against)