

# Should law professors do pro bono work?

**Monica Taylor** 

University of Queensland (Australia)

Helena Whalen-Bridge

National University of Singapore (Singapore)



UQ Pro Bono Centre TC Beirne School of Law

#### Audience perspective

Please raise your hand.

How involved in pro bono are law teachers at your university?

- Highly engaged (mandatory involvement, close to 100%)
- Moderately engaged (can do if they want to, about 50%)
- Low engagement (10 20%)
- Actively hostile, no engagement whatsoever



#### Audience perspective

Please raise your hand.

How do you feel about law professors doing pro bono?

- Of course they should! The law school should support it.
- Yes, but only if it doesn't affect their 'core' work
- // I'm not sure
- No, law professors should not do pro bono.



#### Presenting the arguments

- 1. Monica AGAINST
- Audience: is this right? Ask questions or argue!
- 2. Helena FOR
- Audience: is this right? Ask questions or argue!



### Academic resistance to change

"I think law academics have a reputation for being more difficult to deal with."

"I think that as lawyers, legal academics are more likely to be confrontational and adversarial."

Nick James 'How dare you tell me how to teach!' Resistance to Educationalism within Australian Law Schools' (2013) 36 UNSW Law Journal, 779.

Gina Anderson, 'Mapping Academic Resistance in the Managerial University' (2008) 15 Organization 251



## Practical strategies to encourage law professor pro bono at your law school

#### Create incentives:

- Pro bono considered for promotion
- Public recognition (e.g. website, academic profile)

Explain research spin-offs

Possible academic supervision for clinical legal education activities



