

# 4th APBCLEF Plenary 1

What Do We Mean by Pro Bono and  
What are Its Ethics

**Is pro bono ethical?**

Adrian Evans  
Monash University

# Is pro bono ethical?

Lawyers' pro bono is about donating time and skill to achieve justice...



# Is pro bono ethical?

... but it's a mistake to think that voluntary work is automatically 'good' or ethical.

We sometimes need to ask 'why, how and for what?'



# To decide if a pro bono action or decision is ethical, ask 3 questions:

1. What are the intentions of the people who are taking the action? (**virtue ethics**)
2. Are the methods used fair to all involved (**Kantianism**) – especially to women, and
3. Are the outcomes worth the cost? (**consequentialism**) – eg, climate change.



# Why, how and for what?

**When our answers to all three  
of these questions lead to the  
same conclusion,  
then there can be strong moral  
agreement that our proposed  
action is truly pro bono**

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

## Presentation Plan Template

Name of Session:

**Plenary 1** - What do we mean by pro bono and what are its ethics?

Total Session Minutes: (75 min)

Facilitator:

Prof. Adrian Evans, Monash University, [Adrian.Evans@monash.edu](mailto:Adrian.Evans@monash.edu)

Co-Presenters:

1. Miriam Chinnappa, *Avocats Sans Frontières*, [mchinnappa@asf.be](mailto:mchinnappa@asf.be)

2. Panarairat Srichaiyarat, Centre for ASEAN Studies, *Khon Kaen University*, [panarairat@gmail.com](mailto:panarairat@gmail.com)

Session Plan:

Step	Activity Description	Time (Min)	Presenters	materials needed
1	Large Group Discussion Brainstorm	10	Evans as facilitator, who begins by explaining the process for the session	Laptop and projector
2	Individual Presentations from Presenters on 'What Pro Bono is to them and What are its Ethics?' <i>[this part of the session is intended to stimulate audience thoughts for the following plenary interactions]</i>	20 (total) 7 minutes each	Chinnappa Srichaiyarat Evans	
3	Large Plenary Group Divided into 7 Sections and Each Section Discusses and Presents <u>quickly</u> on their question 1. Who does pro bono 2. How do we do pro bono 3. Where can we do pro bono 4. When can we do pro bono 5. How can we support pro bono 6. Why do we do pro bono 7. What are the ethics attached to pro bono	25 (total)	Evans to quickly and clearly identify 7 sections around the plenary space, with nominated reporters from each section, who will be asked to respond within 2-3 minutes max.	
4	One presenter discusses a specific moving story example of a clear intersection between pro bono and its ethics	15	Dr Pan – discusses her Thai drug importation case in more detail	
5	Brief questions from plenary audience and answers from the co-presenters	5	Evans to facilitate and then thank all involved	
<b>Time</b>		<b>75</b>		

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# To decide if a pro bono action or decision is ethical, ask 3 questions:

1. What are the intentions of the people who are taking the action?  
(**virtue ethics**)
2. Are the methods used fair to all involved  
(**Kantianism**) – especially to women, and
3. Will we cause any adverse consequences?  
(**consequentialism**).



# Why, how and for what?

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and what are its ethics?

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015

Miriam Chinnappa



# The Role and Responsibility of Lawyers



# ASF



# Fostering the Social Responsibility of Lawyers

Access to  
Justice

Pro Bono

Legal Ethics



# Operationalizing Legal Ethics through Pro Bono

