2021 APPBC&A2JEX – PRO BONO SOLUTIONS COVID-STYLE

THE LEGAL NEEDS

* I have a job, but am not allowed to work unless I have been fully vaccinated – can my boss make me get a jab ?
* I own a food counter selling drinks and food – the government says I cannot open unless I check whether all my customers are vaccinated – what rights do I have to refuse, and what do I do if a customer says no ?
* I really object to the lockdown of my industry/town/playground/school/gymnasium/office and I want to protest – the government says I will be arrested if I do – can they do that ?
* I have had my vaccine, and as a result I can go to work – if I catch the virus whilst at work will my boss be responsible to pay me/compensate me ?
* I am a window cleaner/car detailer/office cleaner running my own small business, but have had no work during lockdowns – what are my legal options for compensation.
* My father has died, and given me instructions about his funeral which clash with the government’s human density/assembly restrictions – I don’t want to let my dad down – what can I do ?

THE CHALLENGES

* Which of these legal problems lend themselves to a pro bono response ?
* Is the traditional lawyer/client relationship needed in any and if so which of these legal needs scenarios ?
* What innovative pro bono solutions should bar associations aspire to in meeting these new legal needs ?
* What lawyer skill sets should bar associations be looking for to “staff” the innovative pro bono solutions to these needs ?
* Should bar associations be approaching the profession for assistance with infrastructure for establishing a new pro bono service, or what are the alternatives ?
* What will be the legacy of these innovative solutions and what will be there applications once the pandemic is over ?