

D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative

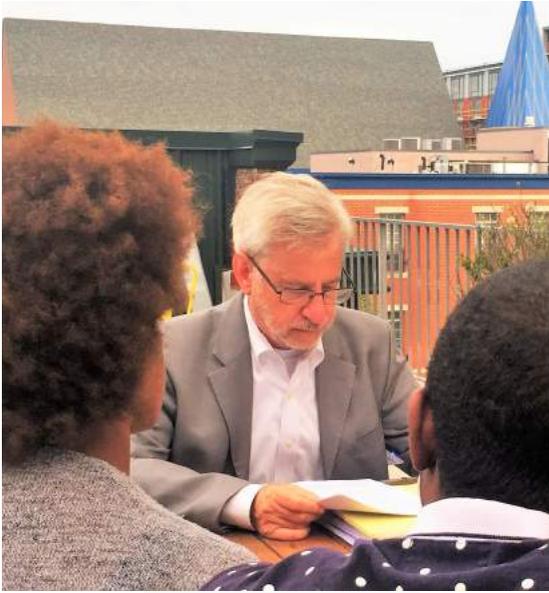


2017 Pro Bono Initiative Report

An Overview of Pro Bono in D.C. | July 2018

OUR MISSION

The Pro Bono Initiative's mission is to improve the delivery of pro bono legal services in the District of Columbia. Signatory Firms agree to:



1. Set a minimum pro bono goal for the firm's D.C. office (3% or 5% of total client billable hours, or alternatively, an average of 60 or 100 hours per lawyer each year).
2. Manage to the pro bono goal.
3. Sign up for, and/or develop, specific pro bono opportunities that help D.C.'s indigent population.
4. Report the firm's D.C. office results to the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center.

The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative is a unique, aspirational pro bono standard for D.C. firms.

OUR BACKGROUND



In 2001, 41 of the District's largest law firms joined the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative ("Initiative") and pledged to provide pro bono legal services at specified levels.*



The number of Signatory Firms has varied over the years due in part to mergers. Peak participation occurred in 2009, when all 64 Signatory Firms responded to the survey.



In April 2018, the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center circulated a survey to all 64 Signatory Firms, gathered survey responses, and aggregated the statistics in this report. This reporting year, 59 Signatory Firms responded to the survey, at least in part.**



* The Initiative's standards were created by, and are used with permission from, the Pro Bono Institute and modeled on the Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge®: <http://www.probonoinst.org/resources/what-counts/>. The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center thanks the Pro Bono Institute for permission to use and affiliate with the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge®. The Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge® name is the property of the Pro Bono Institute and may not be further used or cited, in whole or in part, without prior written permission from the Pro Bono Institute.

** Some firms have policies against providing information on their number of billable hours. As was the case last year, not all firms responded to all questions.

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2017 Reporting Signatory Firms

The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center thanks the Signatory Firms whose commitment to pro bono service is reflected in this Pro Bono Initiative Report.*** We look forward to reporting a renewed and increased level of commitment next year.

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Arent Fox PLLC

Arnold & Porter LLP

Baker Botts LLP

Beveridge & Diamond

Blank Rome LLP

Bryan Cave LLP

Cooley LLP

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Covington & Burling LLP

Crowell & Moring LLP

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Dechert LLP

DLA Piper US LLP

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Duane Morris LLP

Epstein Becker & Green

Eversheds Sutherland US LLP

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP

Foley & Lardner LLP

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Goodwin Procter LLP

Hogan Lovells US LLP

Holland & Knight LLP

Hunton & Williams LLP

Jenner & Block LLP

Jones Day LLP

Kelley Drye & Warren LLP

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

King & Spalding LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

K&L Gates LLP

Latham & Watkins LLP

Mayer Brown LLP

McDermott, Will & Emery LLP

Miller & Chevalier Chartered

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky & Popeo PC

Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

Morrison & Foerster LLP

Nixon Peabody LLP

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP

Perkins Coie LLP

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Reed Smith LLP

Ropes & Gray LLP

Shearman & Sterling LLP

Sidley Austin LLP

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Stephens & Johnson LLP

Venable LLP

Vinson & Elkins LLP

Wiley Rein LLP

Williams & Connolly LLP

WilmerHale LLP

Winston & Strawn LLP

Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

*** 64 Signatory Firms were sent the PBI survey, and 59 Signatory Firms reported their progress. Dentons US LLP; Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP; Norton Rose Fulbright LLP; Squire Patton Boggs LLP; and Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP did not submit survey responses.

2017 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2017 Pro Bono Initiative Report examines the 2017 calendar year pro bono performance of reporting firms signing on to the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative. Signatory Firms have committed to contribute 3% or 5% (or alternatively, 60 or 100 hours per attorney) of their annual total paying client billable hours to pro bono activities and report their performance to the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center each year.



Overall Performance

Total pro bono hours increased significantly in 2017. 59 firms reported performing an aggregated total of 916,850 hours of pro bono work in 2017, an approximate 6% increase in total pro bono hours from the same 59 firms in 2016.



Attorney Participation

The percentage of attorneys engaged in pro bono decreased slightly in 2017. The participation rate was 80% in 2017, down from 81% in 2016. The total number of attorneys participating in pro bono decreased in 2017 from 8,874 to 8,128 attorneys.



Pro Bono for Those of Limited Means

In 2017, firms reported approximately 598,394 pro bono hours for those of limited means or organizations serving them. Collectively, 65% of all pro bono time provided by reporting Signatory Firms was devoted to those of limited means or organizations serving them.



Innovative Activities

Several firms reported on their engagement in one or more new pro bono activities in D.C., including: a partnership with a corporate in-house department (10); a D.C. office-wide signature project (10); a rotation/fellowship/externship program (7); or other (9).

2017 Highlights

Average Pro Bono Hours as a Percentage of
Billable Hours

5.1%

Attorney Participation
in Pro Bono

80%



Average Pro Bono
Hours Per Attorney

90

Pro Bono Percentage Devoted to Persons of
Limited Means or Organizations That Serve Them

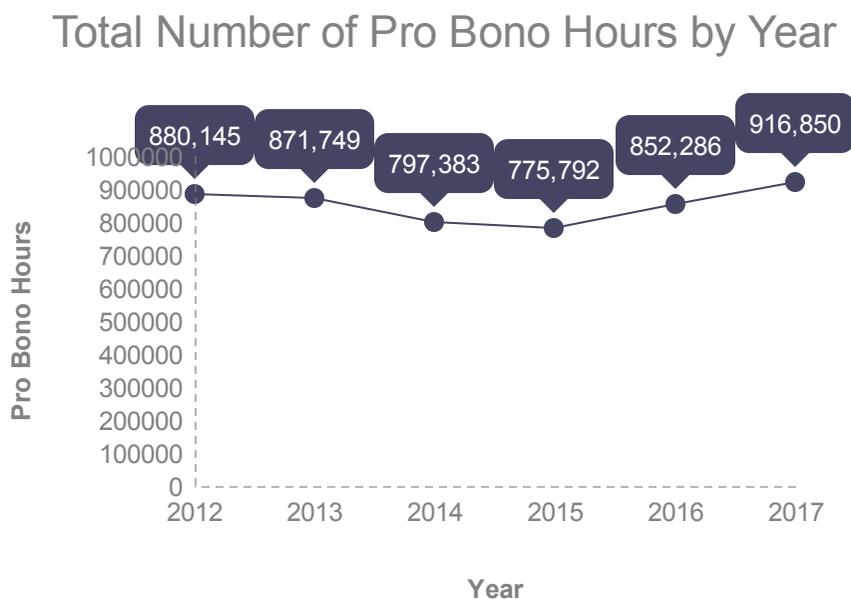
65%

2017 Initiative Performance Data

Total Pro Bono Hours

In 2017, 59 firms performed an aggregated total of **916,850 hours** of pro bono service -- approximately 64,564 hours more than in 2016, when 59 firms reported an aggregated total of 852,286 pro bono hours.

Total pro bono hours **increased** in 2017, despite the decrease in the number of reporting Signatory Firms.****



In a year-to-year comparison, the 59 firms that provided both their 2016 and 2017 progress figures reported a total of 863,407 pro bono hours in 2016 and 916,850 pro bono hours in 2017 -- an approximate **6% increase.**

****Although 59 Signatory Firms reported their progress in 2017 (the same number as in 2016), four new Signatory Firms joined the Pro Bono Initiative in 2017 (and provided 2016 figures to allow for their inclusion in any year-to-year comparisons) and are included in the "59" figure. Therefore, there was a decrease in the total number of Signatory Firms' survey responses (59 down from the expected 64).

2017 Initiative Performance Data

Average Pro Bono Percentage

In 2017, 55 of the 59 reporting Signatory Firms provided enough information to verify whether they achieved the 3% or 5% benchmarks set by the Initiative.

Viewed as a percentage of total paying client billable hours, pro bono hours increased significantly in 2017, and firms contributed an average of **5.1%** of their billable hours to pro bono work.

Average Pro Bono Percentage by Year



- 19** reporting firms contributed between 3% and 4.9% of their billable hours to pro bono work in 2017 -- meeting or exceeding the first benchmark set by the Pro Bono Initiative.
- 21** reporting firms contributed between 3% and 4.9% of their billable hours to pro bono work in 2016.
- 27** reporting firms contributed 5% or more of their billable hours to pro bono work in 2017 -- meeting or exceeding the highest benchmark set by the Pro Bono Initiative.
- 21** reporting firms contributed 5% or more of their billable hours to pro bono work in 2016.

From 2016 to 2017, there was a **29% increase** in the number of Signatory Firms that met or exceeded the 5% benchmark.

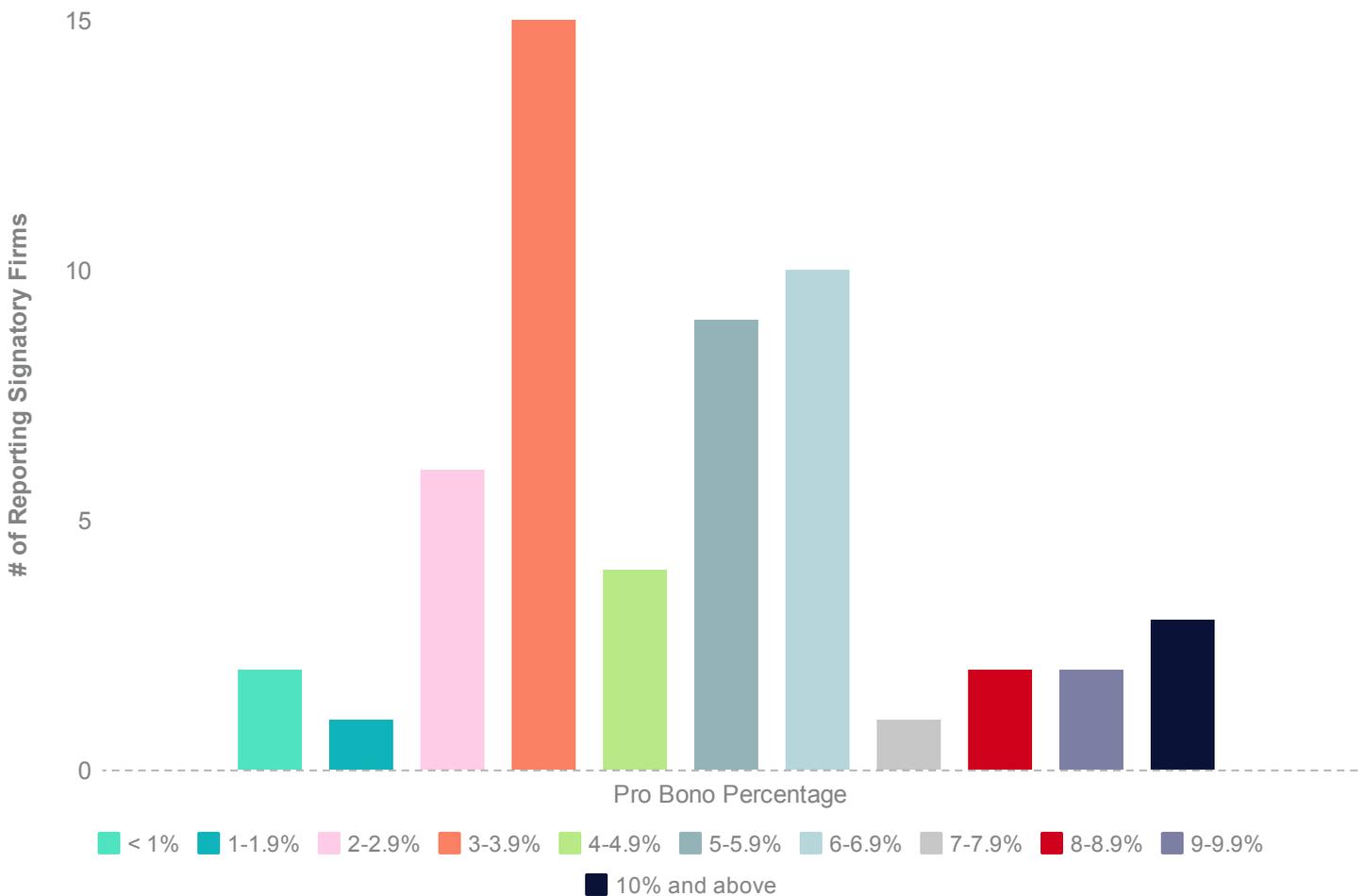
2017 Initiative Performance Data

Pro Bono Percentage Distribution

In 2017, 55 of the 59 reporting Signatory Firms provided enough information to ascertain their percentage of total paying client billable hours dedicated to pro bono work ("pro bono percentage"). The distribution below charts the pro bono percentage for each of those 55 firms.

Although Signatory Firms set a minimum pro bono goal of 3% or 5% of total paying client billable hours, the distribution unfortunately shows that 9 firms did not meet the minimum 3% benchmark set by the Initiative. On the other hand, 3 firms reported dedicating more than 10% of paying client billable hours to pro bono work, demonstrating an outstanding commitment to pro bono service.

Pro Bono Percentage Distribution



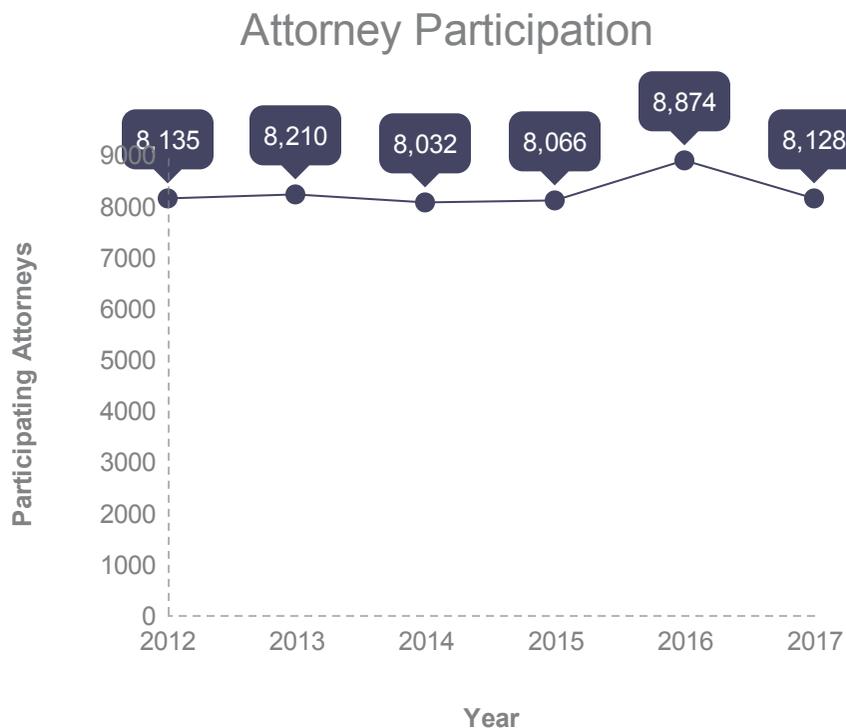
2017 Initiative Performance Data

Attorney Participation

In 2017, Signatory Firms reported 10,200 attorneys in their D.C. offices, a decrease from 10,907 total attorneys in 2016.

In 2017, a total of **8,128 attorneys** participated in pro bono at reporting Signatory Firms, including 2,906 partners; 4,055 associates; 912 counsel; and 255 staff attorneys and other attorneys. By comparison, a total of 8,874 attorneys at reporting Signatory Firms participated in pro bono in 2016.

The number of attorneys participating in pro bono legal work **decreased** between 2016 and 2017.

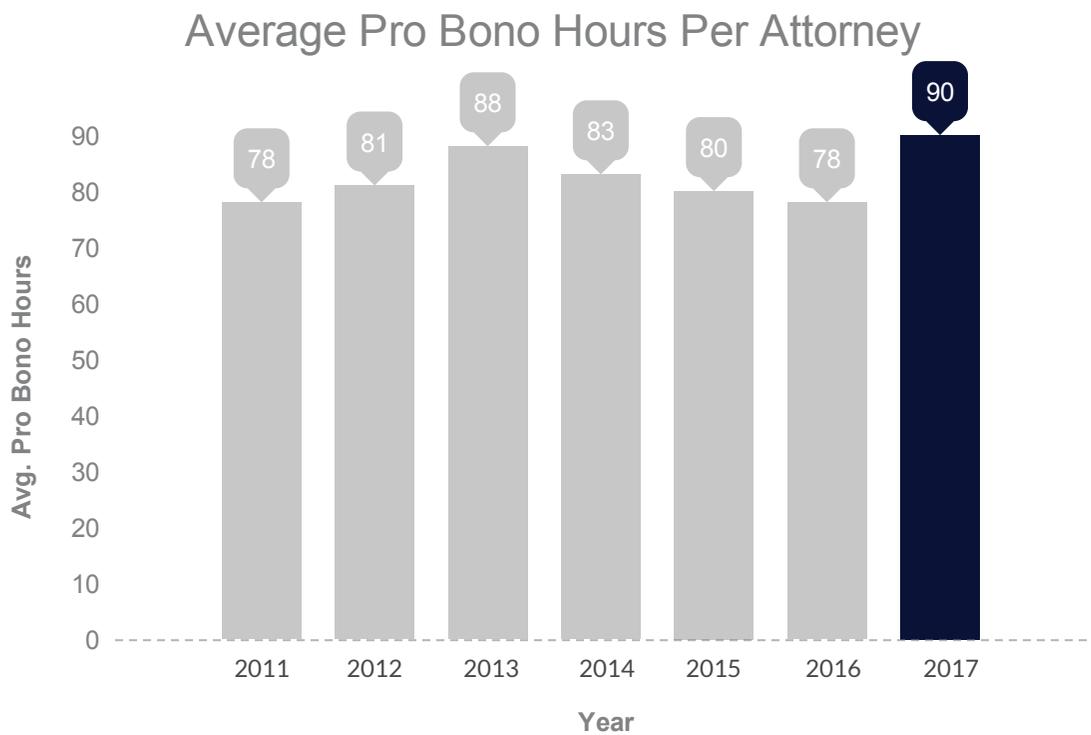


Approximately **80%** of attorneys in the reporting firms participated in pro bono work in 2017, a decrease of approximately 1 percentage point from attorney participation in 2016.

2017 Initiative Performance Data

Average Pro Bono Hours Per Attorney

In 2017, the average number of pro bono hours was **90 hours** per attorney, which is a significant increase from last year's average of 78 pro bono hours per attorney.



2017 Initiative Performance Data

Service to Persons of Limited Means or Organizations That Serve Them

In 2017, 59 firms reported approximately **598,394** actual or estimated hours of pro bono service to persons of limited means or the organizations that serve them.*****

Approximately **65% of all pro bono time** in 2017 was devoted to those of limited means or organizations serving them, showing that, collectively, Signatory Firms are meeting their Initiative commitment to devote a majority of their pro bono time to persons of limited means.

52 reporting Signatory Firms provided an actual or estimated number of pro bono hours dedicated to persons of limited means or organizations that serve them.

50 out of 52 of these same reporting Signatory Firms dedicated greater than 45% of their pro bono hours to persons of limited means or organizations that serve them.

87% of reporting Signatory Firms dedicated over half of their pro bono hours to persons of limited means or organizations that serve them.

*****In 2017, 32 firms (54%) reported tracking pro bono hours to persons of limited means or organizations that serve them, and 27 firms (46%) reported estimating those pro bono hours. In 2016, 27 firms (46%) reported tracking pro bono hours, and 32 firms (54%) reported estimating pro bono hours.

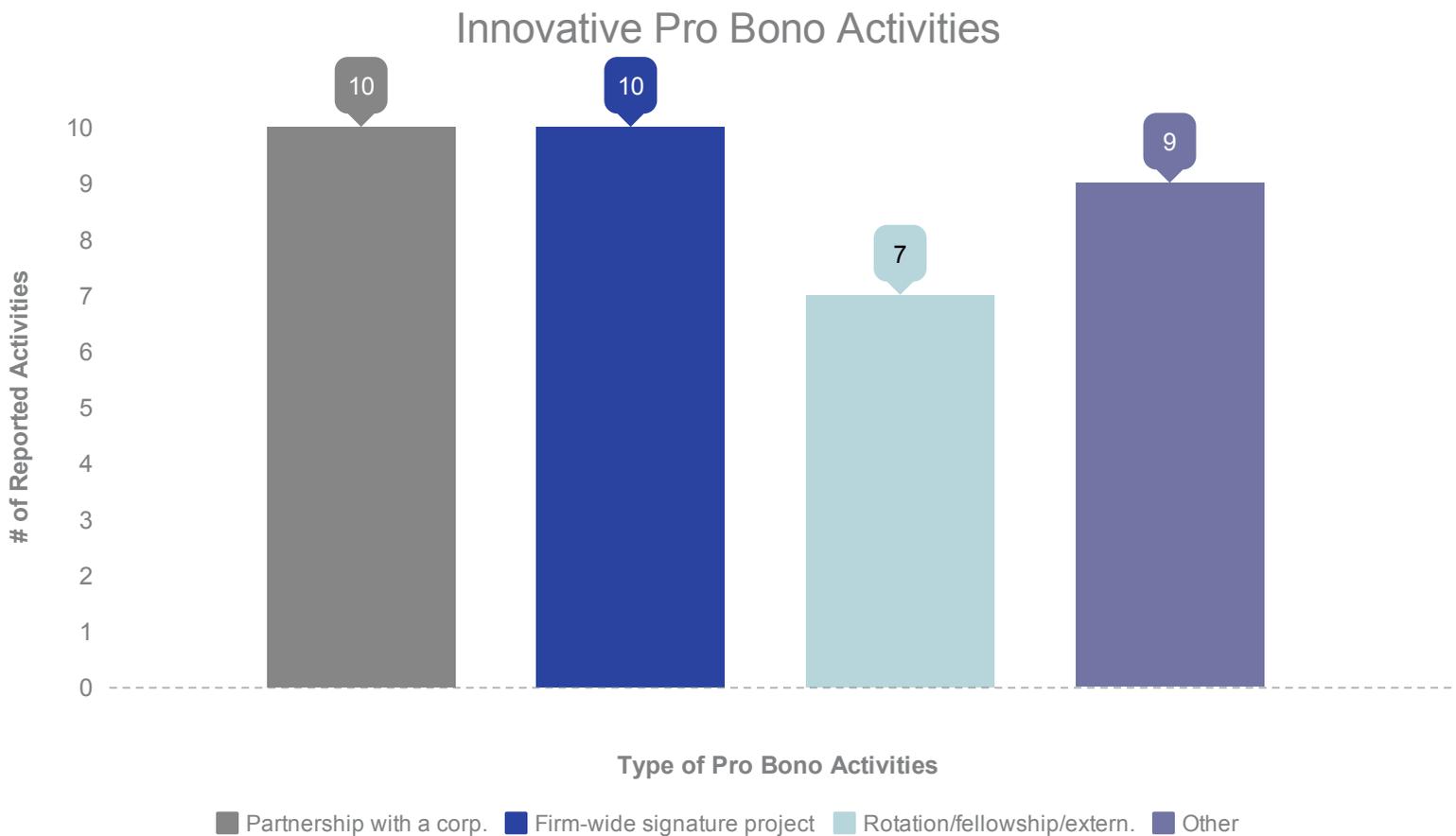
2017 Initiative Performance Data

Innovative Pro Bono Activities

In 2017, Signatory Firms strived to meet the Initiative goal of undertaking or increasing their involvement in

one or more specific pro bono activities

to increase their pro bono legal services. Of the firms that responded, the following indicates the number of innovative pro bono activities -- a partnership with a corporate in-house department (10); a D.C. office-wide signature project (10); a rotation/fellowship/externship program (7); or other (9) -- undertaken in 2017:



2017 Initiative Performance Data

Innovative Pro Bono Activities

The following are examples (reprinted with permission from each firm) of other innovative pro bono activities that Signatory Firms had undertaken in 2017:

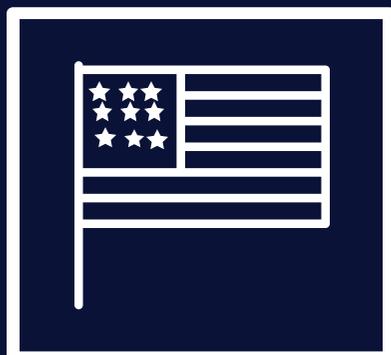


" We launched partnerships with Exelon, AT&T, and Freddie Mac. We also launched a partnership with Superior Court's Veterans Navigator; launched with the Public Defender Service the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act Project; and launched with the Legal Aid Society the Sidley Austin Appellate Advocacy Fellowship."

- *Sidley Austin LLP*

"We teamed with in-house departments and nonprofit organizations to offer pro bono immigration legal clinics."

- *DLA Piper LLP*



" Our D.C. office attorneys collaborated with The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, Veterans Legal Assistance Project: Neighborhood Legal Services Program, and law schools to launch legal clinics in VA Medical Centers. Before 2016, no local legal aid provided pro bono representation to veterans residing in D.C. ; we have helped more than 500 veterans since launching the clinic. The VA and The Veterans Consortium, along with Duane Morris as a strategic partner law firm, are working to expand access to free legal clinics in VA Medical Centers across the country."

- *Duane Morris LLP*

REFLECTIONS

In 2017, law firm pro bono trends were generally positive, reflecting the commitment of D.C.'s largest law firms to improve the delivery of pro bono legal services in the District of Columbia. The findings in this report provide important insights into the role of law firms in addressing the public's unmet need for legal services.

Notable Trends in 2017

- A significant increase in the total number of pro bono hours -- the highest since 2012
- A significant increase in the average pro bono percentage -- the highest since 2011
- A significant increase in the number of average pro bono hours per attorney -- the highest since 2011
- 87% of reporting Signatory Firms devoted over half of their pro bono hours to persons of limited means or organizations that serve them
- A decrease in the absolute number of attorneys participating in pro bono (down from 2016), but only an one percentage point decrease in the percentage of attorneys devoting time to pro bono work (81% down to 80%)

Key Takeaways

A majority of Signatory Firms met or exceeded their Pro Bono Initiative benchmarks (3% or 5%), indicating that pro bono is a critical component of law firm culture in the District. However, many of the same firms that did not meet their pledged Initiative benchmarks last year also did not meet their benchmarks this year. We urge firms to think strategically about how to increase their pro bono efforts over the next year. We recommend that D.C. firms consider designating an individual responsible for managing the firm's pro bono program.

While the number of attorneys participating in pro bono in 2017 decreased from 2016, the report's data suggest that attorneys who did participate in pro bono in 2017 devoted more time to those efforts than at any other time since 2011. Two record-breaking statistics -- total pro bono hours and average pro bono percentage -- also serve as strong indicators that D.C. firms expanded their commitment to pro bono service in 2017.

In a time of increased need for pro bono legal service, we encourage D.C. firms to devote the majority of their pro bono hours to persons of limited means or organizations that serve them. We also suggest that Signatory Firms recognize the unmet need in our own community for pro bono help. Whether it is providing guidance to nonprofit organizations that serve our low-income neighbors or representing some of the thousands of pro se litigants in local courts, we encourage pro bono that begins at home.

2017 Pro Bono Initiative Survey Questions



Pro Bono Initiative Survey for Calendar Year 2017

This survey is intended to measure the level of pro bono activity of law firms with offices in the District of Columbia. For purposes of this survey, we use the definition of "pro bono work" in the Pro Bono Institute's® Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, Statement of Principles No. 7: http://www.probonoinst.org/wpps/wp-content/uploads/law_firm_challenge_commentary.pdf.

* 1. Firm Information

Firm Name	<input type="text"/>
D.C. Street Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2	<input type="text"/>
Zip	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>
Primary Pro Bono Initiative Contact	<input type="text"/>
Primary Contact Email	<input type="text"/>
Secondary Pro Bono Initiative Contact	<input type="text"/>
Secondary Contact Email	<input type="text"/>

* 2. Please state the **total** hours the attorneys in your firm's D.C. office spent on pro bonowork in 2017. Please do not use commas, percentage signs, or decimals when entering your values.

2017 Pro Bono Initiative Survey Questions

* 3. In addition to the number of pro bono hours, please also provide **one** of the following metrics:

% of total paying client billable hours dedicated to pro bono work (from 0 to 100) for your firm's D.C. office in 2017

Total paying client billable hours for your firm's D.C. office, including hours dedicated to pro bono clients, in 2017

* 4. Does your firm's D.C. office track the number of pro bono hours dedicated to those of limited means or organizations that serve them, or are you providing an estimate?

- Tracked
 Estimated

* 5. Of the total number of attorney pro bono hours performed during the reporting period, how many hours were provided to those of limited means or organizations that serve them?

* 6. Please state the number of attorneys in your firm's D.C. office as of December 31, 2017.

*For purposes of Questions 6 and 7, staff/other attorneys refers to practicing attorneys who are employees of the firm but who are not on a partnership track. This category does not include attorneys employed via an agency who are not firm employees.

Enter 0 if there are no attorneys for a category.

Partners

Associates

Counsel

Staff/Other Attorneys

2017 Pro Bono Initiative Survey Questions

* 7. Please state the number of attorneys in your firm's D.C. office who participated in pro bono legal work during the reporting period.

Enter 0 if there are no attorneys for a category.

Partners	<input type="text"/>
Associates	<input type="text"/>
Counsel	<input type="text"/>
Staff/Other Attorneys	<input type="text"/>

8. Has your firm developed any innovative pro bono activity or project in D.C. since the last reporting period? (Please check all that apply.)

- A partnership with a corporate in-house department
- A D.C. office-wide signature project
- A rotation/fellowship/externship program

Other D.C.-based activity or project not mentioned above (describe below):

GET IN TOUCH WITH US



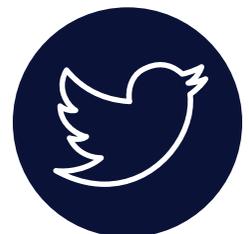
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