

Getting Involved in Real Estate Pro Bono Activities

The Pro Bono Matchmaker Project: We wanted to remind our membership that the Pro Bono Matchmaker Project (PBMP) has successfully matched several of our Matchmaker volunteers with real estate pro bono needs throughout the state and over 90 attorneys have already volunteered to be a part of PBMP. We continue to seek attorneys to participate in the PBMP and pro bono projects for attorneys who have already agreed to participate in the PBMP.

PBMP Summary: As previously announced, the Real Property Law Section has created the PBMP to increase pro bono participation by real property attorneys by matching attorneys with pro bono opportunities. Numerous attorneys have already volunteered to be a part of the PBMP. Thanks to all of the attorneys who have volunteered to be a part of this project, particularly those who have already agreed to provide legal assistance.

The RPLS Pro Bono Committee has established points of contact with several qualifying organizations that need real property legal services. Attorneys can simply volunteer to be part of a pool of attorneys available to take on such projects. Once an organization communicates a real property pro bono project to us, we send an e-mail solely to the pool of volunteer attorneys with a project description. Once volunteer(s) respond to the e-mail agreeing to assist with the project, we put the organization and volunteer(s) in contact with each other to coordinate handling of the project. Potential projects include land closings, declarations, easements, affordable housing, single-family housing, property tax appeals, etc.

How to Join: If you are interested in joining our pool of volunteers for the Pro Bono Matchmaker Project, please email our new project coordinator, Evan Cohn at evan.cohn@agg.com. Then, once a project is identified, all members of the pool receive an e-mail with the project description and invitation to assist with the project. It's that easy. Please note that by agreeing to be included in the pool of volunteer attorneys, you are only agreeing to receive e-mails about possible pro bono projects. You are not obligated to take on any projects.

We are aware of how difficult it can be for attorneys to identify quality pro bono opportunities that involve real estate. This project has been specifically designed to make that process easier. Please consider submitting your name to be included in the pool of volunteer attorneys.

PBMP NEEDS PRO BONO PROJECTS: You can also assist us by identifying projects for our volunteer attorneys. If you become aware of any pro bono needs with which our group of volunteers may be able to assist, feel free to pass such information along to Evan Cohn as well.