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D.C. Lawyers Record More Pro Bono Hours Than Ever in 2019

D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative Report captures record-breaking pro bono achievement

Washington, D.C. – Washington, D.C. law firms logged nearly one million hours of pro bono service in 2019. The record 979,280 hours was announced in the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative Report, an annual survey conducted by the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center of D.C. firms that have signed on to the Pro Bono Initiative, beginning in 2001. In 2019, 9,091 attorneys from 61 D.C. law firms contributed to the record-breaking year, topping 2018's total by more than 11,000 hours.

83% of the attorneys in the D.C. firms that responded to the survey devoted time to pro bono service in 2019. Lawyers from the responding firms completed an average of 90 hours of pro bono service per attorney. The firms also reported seventeen different innovations they have undertaken to increase services to low-income District residents.

“Washington, D.C. has greater income inequality than any state in the country. We also have more lawyers per capita than any other city in the country. Lawyers have a professional responsibility to serve their communities, and we salute those D.C. lawyers who are giving back,” said Rebecca K. Troth, executive director of the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center. “So many of our D.C. neighbors cannot afford a lawyer, but with the support of volunteer attorneys, we can narrow the access to justice gap.”

Click [here](#) to view the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative Report for 2019.

About the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative:

Launched in 2001, the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative encourages the District's law firms to devote a specific amount of time (60 or 100 hours or 3% or 5% of billable hours) to pro bono legal services. Additionally, Signatory Firms agree to report their progress annually to the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center. The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center circulates a survey to all firms participating in the Initiative, analyzes survey responses, and aggregates the statistics in an annual report. In 2020, 61 of the 69 Signatory Firms responded to the survey of 2019 results.

About the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center:

The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the largest provider of pro bono legal services in the District. Each year, the Center recruits, trains, and mobilizes attorney volunteers to serve more than 20,000 D.C. residents living in poverty, small businesses, and community-based nonprofits.

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