



Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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KCMBA Celebrates Continued Growth and Success of Project Pro Bono

Project Pro Bono is a joint effort between Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) and Legal Aid of Western Missouri. Officially taking form in 2013, Project Pro Bono's goal is to encourage more attorneys in the Kansas City area to provide pro bono legal services to low-income individuals, families, and institutions. Area law firms are asked to sign a pledge to donate an average of 10 hours per attorney, per year. The program has seen increasing success as firm participation and hours per firm has grown. Quarterly statistics are collected by Legal Aid of Western Missouri and published in KCMBA's award winning member magazine, the *KC Counselor*. End of year results from 2016 show that participating firms donated nearly 50,000 hours. Each year the numbers show a noticeable increase over the last.

"Area firms do great work providing pro bono services in the community," says Vickie Schatz, Executive Director of KCMBA. "Signing the pledge and reporting the hours they are already donating helps them get the recognition they deserve and spotlights the commitment from our legal community to support those in need. As more firms in the Kansas City area participate, we expect to see this program grow."

Latricia Scott Adams with Legal Aid of Western Missouri notes that, "The nearly 126,000 hours donated by Project Pro Bono members over the last several years is an incredible accomplishment and illustrates what one city's bar can do for the good of its community. Ongoing encouragement by firm management and the work being performed by their attorneys is significant in narrowing the access to justice gap in Kansas City. Project Pro

Bono is not only playing a vital role in bridging the gap here at home, but we hope it is setting the example for other cities to follow.”

KCMBA and Legal Aid of Western Missouri are committed to encouraging pro bono support in the community. In addition to firm reporting, individuals can be nominated for additional recognition in the magazine. If selected for recognition, their photo and highlights of their pro bono work will be published in the *KC Counselor*. Law firms interested in taking the pledge and getting noticed should visit us online to get started. Forms can be found at <http://www.KCMBA.org/probono>.

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association serves approximately 5,000 members in the nine-county Kansas City metro area: Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri. The mission of this Association is to serve our members and our community by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the law.

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