



PILnet 3rd Pro Bono Roundtable (11 September 2014, Milan)

Discussion Summary

Introduction:

- Since the last RT meeting, there have been two positive steering committee calls with members Umberto Antonelli (Ashurst), Martino Sforza (McDermott Will & Emery) and Carolina Piovano (Clifford Chance).
- From PILnet's perspective, it is vital that the RT initiative continues to make progress, with a view to becoming a successful entity in its own right.
- PILnet is also committed to bringing the 9th European Pro Bono Forum to Italy in 2015.

Report on pro bono initiatives:

- Representatives of Clifford Chance's CSR and employment teams outlined how the firm's pro bono streams (access to justice, access to education and access to finance) operate alongside their commitment to equality and workforce diversity in the firm itself.
- 20/30 lawyers continually involved in pro bono work in CC's Milan office.
- One problem identified – lots of pro bono going on but being carried out privately. Voluntary work happens but not in a structured way. This point generated a discussion on attitudes towards pro bono, differences between US and Europe, the cultural factors around working for free in each country and filling the gap left by limited state legal aid services.
- Younger associates and trainee lawyers very energized and interested in pro bono according to group feedback.
- The issue of mandatory hours and pro bono targets (particularly in US firms) was also discussed.

Roundtable management

General:

- PILnet's main goals for pro bono in Italy were discussed – a) growing the Italian pro bono roundtable; b) identify and work with a local clearinghouse partner and c) run a successful 2015 Forum.
- Another goal for the roundtable itself is to create its own definition of pro bono. This needs to be tailored to the Italian context and worked on as a priority before any approach can be made to bar associations.
- Three roundtable participants volunteered to draft this definition (possibly with support from the steering committee) - Stefano Macchi de Cellere (Jones Day); Giovanni Carotenuto (Orrick) and Veronica Pinotti (McDermott, Will & Emery).

With ASLA and bar associations:

- ASLA could be a valuable resource for the roundtable, can give feedback on Forum 2015 location (Milan vs Rome). A working group within ASLA may be a possibility but time/capacity could be an issue.

- ASLA can connect roundtable with the national ([Consiglio Nazionale Forense](#)), Rome and Milan bars before the national bar council elections in Jan/Feb 2015.
- After the introductions to Rome/Milan bars, regional bars may also be contacted as a way of connecting with local, solo practitioners as well as those in US/UK owned firms.
- ALSA could also use their extensive contact database to circulate a 'call to action' in Italian to national and local law firms who are not currently involved in the pro bono roundtable.

Forum 2015:

- Discussion of Rome vs Milan, various pros and cons associated with holding the event in each location eg: NGOs predominantly located in Rome vs law firms HQ in Milan; Expo/[ITMA 2015](#) effect on Milan hotel room availability and price; higher ongoing tourist interest in Rome.
- General feedback from participants seemed to suggest Rome was the preferred option among those present at the meeting – danger of being lost among Expo2015, Justice Minister (Andrea Orlando) is young and may be interested in Forum, location is appealing to those outside Italy; good train links to other Italian cities.
- Possible workshops for 2015 were discussed – refugee/asylum/African issues were highlighted.

Next steps:

- Stefano Macchi de Cellere, Giovanni Carotenuto and Veronica Pinotti to draft roundtable pro bono definition.
- Get introduced to (and possibly meet with) the national (CNF), Milan and Rome bar associations – via ASLA.
- Draft 'call' in Italian to national and local bars/firms.

Next Roundtable: Wednesday 19 November 2014, 13.00-15.00 CET hosted by [Orrick Milan](#) and featuring invited NGO's.