

Minutes of the 20th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable

17th May 2017 (1-3 pm)

Held at Studio Legale Associato in association with Linklaters LLP, Milan

Dear All,

Please find here-below a brief summary of the RT in heading (see attached agenda):

1. Attendees: 36 (see attached list).

2. Introduction

Last Wednesday's meeting marked the start of the fourth year of activity of our RT, and was held on the same day of the incorporation of Pro Bono Italia. G. Carotenuto highlighted the steadily growing number of attendees to each meeting, and confirmed the importance of disseminating a "pro bono" culture in Italy, also through the cooperation with local Bar Councils, as well as the organisation of pro bono seminars. Pro Bono Italia is called to play an important role in this respect.

3. NGOs' presentations and projects

- Diritto di Sapere (Guido Romeo): brief presentation of a recent survey on the impact on the Italian legal system of the newly introduced FOIA, as well as of the book entitled "*Silenzi di Stato*", co-authored with E. Belisario. G. Romeo stressed the importance of strategic litigation in order to foster transparency in administrative acts in our country;
- Riscatti Onlus (Debora Spadoni e Federica Balestrieri): brief introduction of a voluntary association based in Milan that, mainly through photography, carries out projects to promote social integration and give a ransom opportunity to those who suffer or had difficulties in life. Its goal is to raise public awareness of the values of solidarity with particular reference to the homeless, immigrants and children affected by cancer. Among the main areas of interest for pro bono assistance: labour law and immigration law;
- Fondazione Francesca Rava N.P.H. Italia Onlus (Maria Vittoria Rava): this is an independent, non political, non profit foundation whose mission is to help children in serious need, in Italy and worldwide, through children sponsorship, fundraising projects, volunteers and educational programs. The Foundation was born in 2000 in the name of Francesca, a bright and generous young woman who suddenly died in a car crash, after her sister Maria Vittoria, a lawyer, met N.P.H. and decided to dedicate her life to help children. It represents N.P.H. and

the Haiti-based St. Luc Foundation in Italy. PB areas of interest: IP law, children protection, labour law and general legal advice;

- Tortuga (Giuseppe Ippedico and Lodovico Bianchi; see presentation attached): this think-tank of Bocconi's students and graduates in economics provides analysis, information and data with an independent style, in-depth, rigorous, yet accessible to everyone, and proposes ideas and themes with reference to political and economic necessities, whilst contributing to a better public management and a more efficient allocation of economic and social resources. PB areas of interest: legal assistance in general;

- The International Refugees Assistance Project (IRAP) (Julie Kornfeld): a North American NGO, that provides free legal advice to refugees around the world. Julie joined the RT by phone, and briefly introduced IRAP, pointing out that it relies on a unique model wherein their clients are represented by law school students, under the supervision of pro bono lawyers. To this end, IRAP staff provides attorneys and law students with training and extensive guidance materials. IRAP is now looking to use its model to assist to expand its representation of persecuted individuals in access to safety throughout Europe. Julie will be in Italy in mid-June, and is willing to meet as many people as possible, who are committed in the pro bono sector. G. Carotenuto confirmed the RT's availability to organise a meeting to welcome Julie either in Rome or Milan.

4. Update on the clearinghouses' activity:

- CILD (Antonella Napolitano; see presentation attached): Antonella briefed the RT on the first results of a survey commissioned by CILD and the Good Lobby to NGOs on the latter's current organisation, their legal in-house team (if any) and needs for pro bono legal assistance. She also pointed out the importance of enhancing the coordination between clearing-houses and NGOs with regard to the identification and correct definition of requests of legal advice, to be addressed to the RT's law firms/lawyers. On this subject-matter, we are organising a special session of the RT to be held in Milan in mid-July.

5. Main subjects discussed:

- importance to spread correct information with particular reference to the latest challenges (particularly emphasised by the Italian media) faced by the NGOs operating in the Mediterranean sea assisting boat-people and refugees;
- main topics for the first cycle of pro bono seminars: immigration law, privacy law, and a pro bono EU masterclass aimed, *inter alia*, at explaining how to prepare and address properly a request of pro bono advice.

6. Incorporation of Pro Bono Italia

At the end of the RT's meeting, some of the attendees moved to the offices of Milano Notai, in order to proceed with the incorporation of Pro Bono Italia, the first association of lawyers, law firms and forensic associations, with the goal of promoting and disseminating a pro bono culture throughout Italy. Among the founders of Pro Bono Italia are: ASLA, Albé e Associati, Carotenuto Studio Legale, Casella e Associati, Walter De Agostino, De Berti Jacchia Franchini Forlani, Dentons, Hogan Lovells, Marina Ingrassi, Legance, Macchi di Cellere Gangemi, Quintavalle & Riva and White & Case. Pro Bono Italia will be chaired by G. Carotenuto, Chairman, and S. Macchi di Cellere, Vice Chairman. Other members of the Board of Directors are V. Casella and A. Politov. As Secretary General was appointed B. Tizzani (b.tizzani@macchi-gangemi.com), to whom law firms/lawyers/forensic associations may request the submission form to become a member of Pro Bono Italia.

7. Next events:

- a seminar entitled “Dopo di Noi - un anno di applicazione” (see attached flier) will take place in Busto Arsizio tomorrow, Thursday 25th May 2017, from 5 to 7.30 pm CET, hosted by Albé e Associati Studio Legale, via Cellini n. 22;
- The Good Lobby Inaugural Event will take place on Thursday, 22nd June 2017 from 6 to 8.30 pm CET in Brussels. The EU Ombudsman, Ms. Emily O'Reilly, will deliver the kick-off speech (registration is free of charge). In addition, The Good Lobby Advocacy School will take place the following day on Friday, 23rd June 2017, also in Brussels. The Advocacy School is a unique pro bono event open to a selected group of activists, lawyers, and academics from all over Europe who wish to develop their advocacy skills and enhance their voice in the EU and national decision-making processes. The deadline for applying is 26th May;
- a special session of the RT on the role and function of clearinghouses, as well as their interaction with the NGOs, is in the process of being organised. Tentative date and place: 19th July 2017 in Milan;
- 21th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable will take place in Milan on Wednesday, 20th September 2017, from 12:30 to 14:30 pm CET, hosted by Macchi di Cellere Gangemi, Via G. Serbelloni n. 4, 20121 Milan;
- 2017 PILnet Global Forum will take place in Budapest from 16th to 19th October 2017, at Sofitel Chain Bridge, Széchenyi István tér 2, 1051 Budapest.

Save the Dates!