



Minutes of the 23rd Italian Pro Bono Roundtable

Wednesday, 14th February 2018, 1-3 pm CET

Held in Rome in the offices of Gianni, Origoni, Grippo, Cappelli & Partners

Dear All,

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

- 1. Attendees:** 34 (see attached LoP)
- 2. Introduction**

As Chairman of Pro Bono Italia ("PBI"), I opened the RT pointing out that it was the largest in terms of attendees ever held in Rome so far. Moreover, our association has grown and now counts 21 members (among others, Linklaters and Sherman & Sterling joined recently). Finally, I briefly presented the progresses recently made on pro bono in Italy, the launch of new projects, and the main points of today's agenda.

P. Circosta, knowledge manager of the hosting firm, welcomed the participants on behalf of Tomaso Cenci, partner, who could not attend the RT.

- 3. NGO's presentation**

Croce Rossa Italiana: Lino Posteraro, COO, explained how this NGO operates in Italy. Lately, they are focusing in particular on helping refugees, asylum and international protection seekers. One of the main challenge they face is that 65% of the latter's requests are denied by the Italian competent authorities, thereby requiring the intervention of immigration lawyers. However, it is not easy to find competent professionals, and the applicants lack sufficient financial resources to afford valuable legal support. Therefore, CRI is interested to become part of PBI's network in order to check whether some of the cases that come to its attention fall within the scope of those for which the lawyers/law firms of our distribution list may volunteer on a pro bono basis. During the following discussion, Giulia Montuoro of CRI's Legal Department mentioned a case concerning a request of clarification they had received from the European Court of Human Rights. It was pointed out that this may represent a first occasion of collaboration with the network of PBI (please note that, after the RT, the matter was further assessed by CILD clearinghouse, and turned into a pro bono request in a matter of days).

- 4. On-going projects**

"Know your rights": Claudia Barbarano, Community Partnership Manager at DLA Piper, presented this initiative (see attachment), powered by DLA Piper and the University of Leiden with the collaboration of some Dutch NGOs. "Know your rights" is a legal empowerment project for young asylum seekers and refugees: each student was allocated one mentor (a lawyer) and one "buddy" (a law student) who supported them throughout the program and helped them to use the law and legal skills to achieve their personal goals over a 12-week program. Claudia then pointed out that DLA Piper would like to inquire whether such project could be launched in Italy, in the second half of 2018, in collaboration with PBI.

"Refugee mapping project and refugees' entrepreneurship": Federica Carrus, on behalf of PILnet, continued the discussion on legal assistance for migrants, by introducing this initiative (for more info, see the attachment "Law for Change" on a similar one, recently carried out in HK), which aims at

detecting the NGOs that work on refugees' entrepreneurship programs in Italy, whilst creating a collaboration between PBI and such NGOs. The idea is to launch the project through a student competition, ideally within the legal clinics currently operating in Italy: each team of students would work with an NGO and a law firm for the purposes of creating an innovative project for the development of refugees' entrepreneurship. The best team would be then awarded in November in Berlin, at the PILnet's Global Forum.

5. **The Reform of the Third Sector**

Roberto Museo, Director of CSVnet, continued the presentation on the reform, which started during the previous RT held in Milan in mid-November (see attachment). He pointed out that we are still waiting for the implementing decrees, so we will have to wait a few months before the reform takes full and substantial shape.

6. **Legal clinic**

University of Roma 3: Dario di Cecca presented the prison law clinic, which was born within the University on 2015, thanks to the collaboration between the prison's administration of Regina Coeli in Rome, the law department of Roma 3 and Antigone, an NGO that fights for the detainees' rights. The clinic works through a weekly window in prison (i.e. a front office), connected to a back-office active in the department of law of Roma 3. In brief, the students, supported by a professor of law, work at the front office. If they are not able to answer to the detainees' requests on their own, they discuss the then pending case with the other students and the professor in the back office. A few months ago, they opened another window in the prison of Rebibbia (in Rome too), which is available to women detainees only. The same formula will be soon repeated in Perugia, thanks to the collaboration between the department of law of the local University, Antigone, and another NGO, AltreDestinazioni.

7. **Proposed pro bono seminars for 2018**

Here-below please find the law firms'/lawyers' first availabilities for the proposed pro bono seminars, which should take place this year:

- (i) Immigration Law: De Berti Jacchia / W. De Agostino / DLA Piper.
- (ii) The Reform of the Third Sector: Macchi di Cellere Gangemi.
- (iii) Data Privacy: Hogan Lovells - Albè e Associati (Rome) / Ashurst – White & Case (Milan).
- (iv) Seminar on the coordination between clearinghouses and law firms/lawyers: Dentons (tbc).

Due to the forthcoming introduction of the GDPR, the seminars on seminars on data protection law will be held between mid-June and mid-July, based on the hosting firms' proposed dates and the time necessary to obtain the registration with the local Bar Councils for CLE's purposes.

8. **Other initiatives**

Please find attached a presentation of the first event organized by our friends of Tortuga, the think-tank of actual and former students of Economy at Bocconi University. It has been shaped as an hackathon (see <http://tortugaecon.eu/hackitalia>), i.e. a competition between 8 teams of young students and researchers under 30 - supported by politicians and academics - which aims to produce policy proposals on 4 issues considered particularly relevant for our country: technological change, training, immigration and tax.

9. **Next RT**

25th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable will take place on Wednesday, 11th April 2018 (from 1pm to 3 pm CET) in Milan in the offices of White & Case LLP, Piazza Diaz 22. *Save the Date!*

Fondest regards,

Giovanni Carotenuto
President of Pro Bono Italia