



Minutes of the 28th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable

Held in Milan on Wednesday, 20th February 2019,

In the offices of Ashurst

(see attached agenda)

Dear All,

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

1. Attendees: 65 (see attached LoPs)

2. Introductions:

G. Carotenuto, Co-Founder and Chairman of Pro Bono Italia ("PBI"), opened the meeting by briefly describing the activities carried out and the results achieved by the association in 2018. Among others, besides growing up to reach 28 members, PBI held (i) five Roundtables (the last of which during the inaugural Italy Pro Bono Day, which took place on 28th November in Rome), (ii) three pro bono seminars (one of which on the reform of the Third Sector and the other two on data protection, privacy & cybersecurity), and (iii) a legal training program, carried out in the fall in Milan, named "Know Your Rights", in cooperation with DLA Piper and CILD.

A. Meacci, Managing Partner of Ashurst, welcomed the attendees as partner of the hosting firm. U. Antonelli, Partner of Ashurst, talked about pro bono practice in Ashurst and its commitment as a founding member of PBI.

3. NGO's presentation

ActionAid. I. Nicoli, in charge of great donor relations, introduced the NGO. ActionAid is an international organisation with head office in Johannesburg, working with over 15 million people in 45 countries for a world free from poverty and injustice. It is the first international development organisation whose head office is based in Africa. ActionAid's goal is to change the world pointing to sustainability, through three pillars: rights, redistribution and resilience. G. Scarfini, Head of Legal, talked about ActionAid's legal needs (mainly, in the areas of family law, third sector reform, legal aspects of political affairs) (see attached presentation).

Festival dei Diritti Umani. D. De Biasio, Co-Founder and Director, presented its association Reset-Diritti Umani, a non-profit association founded in Milan in 2015 to spread the knowledge and culture of human rights, which organises *inter alia* the "Festival dei Diritti Umani". It is aimed at young people by bringing direct testimonies. The initiative has a social value: to restore the rights of those who have lost them. In May 2019, the Festival will make an "on the run" tour across Italy: 2nd to 4th in Milan, 7th in Bologna, 8th in Florence and 11th in Rome (at MAXXI). They constantly look for new synergies, exchange of ideas, contacts. In this respect, they are willing to collaborate with PBI, as well as with the legal clinics spread throughout Italy (see attached presentation).

Fondazione Bocelli. S. Moro (LCA), outside legal counsel, briefly introduced the Andrea Bocelli Foundation (ABF). ABF was born in July 2011 by the will of Maestro Bocelli and his family to give back a bit of that affection and closeness that he has received in the course of his career across the world. S. Gualdani, CFO, said that ABF's mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, distress due to illness and social exclusion by promoting and supporting national and international projects that promote the overcoming of these barriers and the expression of their full potential. Among others, in 2018 they rebuilt a school in the centre of Italy following the 2016 earthquake. They did the same in Haiti also. ABF is looking for help in order to replicate the project completed in 2018, and needs legal assistance in some country in the Middle-East, Palestine and North Africa (see https://www.dropbox.com/s/17cj404wprdbavq/istituzionale_sarnano_h264.mov?dl=0).

City Angels. S. Castelli, Vice President, introduced the NGO. City Angels is a voluntary association founded in 1994 in Milan by Mario Furlan. They help the weakest: homeless, migrants, drug addicts, alcoholics, victims of crime. They have 19 sections in Italy and 2 in Switzerland, with a total of more than 500 volunteers. In Milan, they have two centres: "Oasi del Clochard" and "Casa Elio Fiorucci". In "Oasi del Clochard", thanks to the cooperation with the Milan Bar Association, they have a "Sportello del Cittadino", so they can manage requests coming by private individuals, as well. They seek help regarding the latter (see attached presentation).

Women Security. P. Poli, CEO and Founder, presented her initiative: an innovative start up with a social vocation, founded in 2018, from the desire to make available to women and their loved ones the best technologies and professionals to prevent and reduce risky situations. The goal is the prevention. They have some personal security advisors and organize basic prevention courses. They need more lawyers to work together with security experts, technology and training (see attached presentation).

ViviDown. M. Mimesi, Counselor, and M. Borsani, Junior Project Manager, introduced the NGO. ViviDown is a voluntary association founded in 1988 in Milan by a group of parents of children with Down syndrome and develops around the common needs of families with children with Down syndrome. Its goal is to improve the quality of life of children with Down syndrome, as well as of their parents. They have more than 50 volunteers. Their projects are repeated from year to year. One of these deals with the inclusion of persons with Down syndrome in law firms. According to a research made by McKinsey in 2014, a company or a law firm who hires people with Down syndrome has advantages in terms of general organization of work. They would thus like to introduce potential staggers to new law firms (see attached presentation).

4. Legal Clinics and Pro Bono Italia:

U. Stege, Executive Director of Clinical Legal Education (CLE) at the International University College of Turin, presented what legal clinic education means. CLE is a law teaching method based on experiential learning, which develops not only knowledge, but also skills and values and, ultimately, social justice. In Italy, there are 25 legal clinics. U. Stege said that a CLE offers an innovative and effective way to (i) train a new generation of legal professionals who is sensitive to issues of social justice, (ii) support disadvantaged, discriminated individuals and communities to access their rights, (iii) help the society to have a greater awareness about systematic discrimination, and (iv) support social justice. U. Stege explained that there is strong relationship between CLE and pro bono in general. PBI and International University College of Turin could cooperate together in a project called "Access to Decent Work for Migrants", in which PBI would (i) provide lawyers with expertise in labour

law/contract law to train students for their law clinic interventions, and (ii) supervise law clinic students (see attached presentation).

5. How to handle pro bono requests by private individuals: discussion over *ad hoc* guidelines to be adopted by the Italian clearinghouses

L. Liboni made an introduction about the clearinghouse CILD that she helps coordinating. The “Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights” (CILD) was founded in 2014 and is a network of 37 civil society organizations. Since 2015, CILD has been functioning also as a clearinghouse for PBI’s network of lawyers. L. Liboni talked briefly about how CILD usually manages requests coming from NGOs. Regarding requests from private individuals, she suggests to forward them to the network through NGOs that are more sensitive to the matter object of the specific request. In her view, there are two main issues: (i) network’s lawyers/law firms’ willingness to take on private individuals’ requests, and (ii) their expertise in the particular fields where the assistance is requested.

G. Carotenuto said that (i) there is a growing interest by private individuals to receive legal assistance on a pro bono basis, and (ii) lawyers/law firms belonging to our network are more than willing to provide such kind of assistance. In addition, he pointed out that (i) PBI is present not only in Rome and Milan, but aims to involve more lawyers based in other Italian towns in which handling private individuals’ requests is the normality, and (ii) PILnet’s guidelines explain how to manage requests by private individuals, but need to be supplemented by *ad hoc* provisions concerning the Italian market.

V. Casella, PBI’s Board’s member, maintaining her experience in US, said that clearinghouses must be willing to manage private individuals’ requests as well. The guidelines are then necessary.

U. Stege said that his legal clinic usually takes on private individuals’ cases. The issue there is to select which kind of cases to take on.

G. Carotenuto also said that, considering the due respect of Article 24 of the Italian Constitution and the Italian legal aid system, PBI’s lawyers are devoted (though not exclusively) to manage pre-litigation cases and extrajudicial matters.

In conclusion, we agreed on the need to draft a set of *ad hoc* guidelines to supplement the existing ones, which will be adopted by CILD when handling requests coming from private individuals.

6. Proposed new project

G. Carotenuto (PBI), L. Liboni (CILD) and C. Barbarano (DLA Piper) informed the attendees about the launch of the “Know Your Rights” program in Rome, running from the 15th of May to the 26th of June 2019. The program (already held in the fall of last year in Milan) is a legal education program co-organised by DLA Piper, CILD and PBI, offered to a maximum of 25 asylum seekers, refugees and migrants with various forms of protection. PBI will provide for mentors, who will help coaching the participants to the program.

7. Next event

The 29th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable will be held in Rome on Wednesday, 15th May 2019 (from 1 to 3 pm), hosted by DLA Piper (Via dei Due Macelli, 66). After the Roundtable (from 5:30 to 7 pm), there will be the kick-off of the “Know Your Rights” program.

Save the date!