



Minutes of the

29th  **Italian
PROBONO
Roundtable**

Held in Rome on Wednesday, 15th May 2019,

In the offices of DLA Piper

Dear All,

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

1. **Attendees:** 41 (see attached LoPs).
2. **Introduction**

G. Carotenuto, co-founder and chairman of Pro Bono Italia ("PBI"), pointing at that the same marks the second anniversary from the constitution of the association and the fifth one from the first meeting of the Italian Pro Bono Roundtable (that took place in April 2014).

To date, PBI counts 28 members and about 450 people as part of its network, whose common goal is to promote a pro bono culture in our country. Giovanni then welcomed the participants to today meeting, starting from the representatives of the NGOs that are new to the network, and briefly described the events in calendar for 2019, which will culminate with the second edition of the Italy Pro Bono Day that will take place in Milan on Wednesday the 6th of November.

Alberto Angeloni, partner of DLA Piper and responsible for the pro bono practice, joined Giovanni in welcoming the participants and briefly described the current pro bono activities of his firm in Italy.

3. **NGO's presentation**

We Are Here Venice ("WAHV"). J. de Mosto, co-founder and executive director, introduced her NGO. WAHV was created out of her experience as environmental scientist. It is established as an association, and addresses Venice's challenges as a living city, advocating evidence-based approaches to policy making. WAHV initiatives range from self-contained projects and exhibitions (often with the aim of raising awareness), to other more substantial ongoing campaigns, research and PhD programmes. Within the ambit of its main action areas (namely, i) against large cruise ships, ii) water levels, iii) Venice governance, iv) finding a language of values and v) outreach). WAHV promotes specific projects and interventions as "object lessons", amongst which those regarding water levels and clean garden for the local community (see attached presentation).

Italia Nostra. M. Signorini, President, presented the association, which stands for the safeguard of the Italian environmental, cultural, artistic and natural heritage. Born in Rome in 1955 and recognised by means of a Presidential Decree in 1958, the association has more than 11.000 registered members and about 200 sections on the whole national territory, which are very active in denouncing alleged violations of the applicable laws and seeking to enhance Italian heritage by investing important resources much in education. Italia Nostra is keen on exploring PBI's capabilities in order to receive help in the protection of Italy's green heritage, as well as urbanistic and historical real estate. As pointed out by Ms. Mangani, head of legal, the association's legal internal department focuses on coordinating the job carried out by outside counsels without directly following cases before the competent Courts.

Ossigeno per l'informazione ("*Osservatorio sull'Informazione Giornalistica e sulle Notizie Oscurate*"). A. Spampinato, President, introduced the association, which was founded in 2007, following the criminal organisations' death threats against the journalists Lirio Abbate, Roberto Saviano and Rosaria Capacchione. To date, Ossigeno has published the names of more than two thousand Italian journalists affected by intimidation. The association, composed mainly of journalists, manages the eponymous observatory on threatened journalists and news obscured with violence, and is sponsored by the National Press Federation (FNSI) and the Order of Journalists. It furthermore engages in continuing education for journalists, and promotes the resolution of the issue of occult censorship around the world. They are seeking for legal assistance for journalists, mainly in proceedings initiated against them.

4. Presentation of on-going projects

Capacit'Azione. F. Danese, coordinator of Capacit'Azione, and responsible of the Forum Terzo Settore Lazio and CSVnet, presented the project, pointing at that is powered by Forum Terzo Settore Lazio, with the goal to promote a thorough on the Reform of the Third Sector. So far, more than 1.400 people have received an extensive training on the Reform. A national program (200 didactic modules) is running aimed to spread the new rules, new skills and new practices in eight strategic areas: from tax and administrative management of the so called "Enti del Terzo Settore" (ETS) to the issue of subsidiarity, from common assets to social finance, from forms of agreement to transparency. The calendar is available at <http://www.cantiereterzosettore.it/>. F. Danese took the opportunity to propose an observatory on the Italian Public Administration and the Third Sector. The video presentation used by F. Danese is downloadable [here](#).

5. Presentations of Rome 3 University's Legal Clinic

A. Riccardi, International Law Professor at Rome 3 University, presented the nine legal clinics active at Rome 3 University. She pointed out that there are two ways of working for legal clinics: client - based and desk - based. In particular, Human Rights and Refugee Law Legal Clinic is a legal clinic established in 2014, which was initially structured as an experimental course, and now is in the process of becoming a full optional course. Since 2017, through a memorandum of understanding between Rome 3 University's Law Department and the Civil Court of Rome, the former has been entrusted with the periodic publication of Country of Origin Information (COI) Reports. COI Reports, which collects factual and legal information on the home country of migrants, are publicly accessible and highlight the current first instance proceedings against Court's orders for denial by territorial commissions. The CLAF ADiM Group, on the other hand, deals with colleagues of other legal clinics around Italy, with the aim to train them and establish in respective aim universities immigration law legal clinics.

A. Neroni, introduced her work at the front office managed by Legal Clinic Operating on Immigration and Citizenship Law. It was established during academic year 2010/2011 at Rome 3 University as an experimental seminar course. In 2012 such clinic was recognised as a curricular optional course for the disciplinary sector of Philosophy of Law. As a course, the clinic is currently attended by about 30 students per year. To date, scientific coordination is entrusted to di Professor E. Rigo. The approach

is learning-by-doing, with the goal to provide students with both practical and theoretical knowledge on migration and citizenship rights and handle cases at the front office. The above legal clinic is located inside the building of the Law Department and is open to the public once a week, for about three hours. Thanks to external funding, from 2012 the legal clinic has been running a service open to the public (the Front Office for Legal Consultancy). Finally, Ms. Neroni pointed out that the main aim of the legal clinic is to establish a continuous relationship between the academic community with vulnerable groups and their day-to-day issues (see attached presentation).

6. Know Your Rights program in Rome: kick-off

G. Carotenuto, A. Menapace (CILD), and C. Barbarano (DLA Piper), informed the RT's attendees that today will be the kick-off of the "Know Your Rights" program in Rome. The program, which was held in the fall of last year in Milan, is a legal education program co-organised in Italy by DLA Piper, CILD and PBI. The program is offered to about 25 asylum seekers, refugees and migrants with various forms of protection and will last for 7 weeks. The goal is to empower participants by increasing their core legal knowledge of Italian law and associated soft skills, in order to help them to better integrate in our country, advocate for their own interests and pursue their professional and personal goals (see attached program).

C. Barbarano mentioned, as an example of empowerment, Barikamà, a social cooperative created by migrants (see related video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=iCoYONFj2nE>).

The program will be coordinated by DLA's Project Manager, S. Workie, law student and political refugee from Ethiopia.

7. Guidelines on how to handle private individuals' pro bono requests: study group's update

G. Carotenuto provided the RT with a briefly update, by pointing out that the activity of the study group is carrying on. Its goal is to drafting (a) some guidelines, to be used by CILD clearinghouse when handling a request of pro bono assistance from a private individual, and (b) a questionnaire, to be submitted to the latter, whose purpose is to gather preliminary information on the applicant, as well as on the case at issue, thus verifying if it is worth of being transmitted to our network of lawyers.

8. Pro Bono Seminar and next meeting

The 30th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable will be held in Milan, hosted by Jones Day (Via Filippo Turati, 16) on Wednesday, 17th July 2019 (from 01 to 03 PM).

On the same day and place, from 10 AM to 12 PM will take place the pro bono seminar entitled "NGOs' compliance/corporate governance: employment & relationship" and will be jointly held by Ms L. Baldisserra (Jones Day) and Mr. M. Tecchia (Legance). The seminar is addressed, in particular, to lawyers and legal advisers of NGOs and non- profit sector.