

34th  **Italian**
PROBONO
Roundtable

Wednesday, 17th June 2020 | From 1 to 3 pm
Studio Legale Gianni, Origoni, Grippo, Cappelli & Partners

MINUTES

PARTICIPATION

78 attendees (se attached LoPs).

INTRODUCTION

G. Carotenuto, Co-founder and President of Pro Bono Italia (“PBI”), welcomed the 78 attendees to the RT, in particular the **new members**, Agata Cavallo and Alessandra Terzini, of the law firm Legalea, based in Lodi (Lombardy). He pointed out that this was a very **significant year** for the pro bono movement in Italy, which is growing in numbers and enthusiasm. G. Carotenuto reminded also that, due to the current circumstances, for the first time the event was held only **online**.

T. Cenci, GOP’s partner, joined Giovanni in welcoming the participants and briefly described his firm’s history focusing on pro bono activities, both abroad and Italy projects. T. Cenci concluded saying that in his firm, pro bono is a pleasure, profitable from the human point of view.

PBI’s NEW BOARD MEMBERS PRESENTATION

G. Carotenuto announces that the Association Members’ Meeting held on **22 May 2020** appointed the new Board of the Association. G. Carotenuto has been confirmed as President of the Association, Stefano Macchi di Cellere has been confirmed as Vice-President and Atanas Politov has been confirmed as member of the Board. Furthermore, the Board has **four new members**, who introduced themselves:

Luca Allevi: Luca is a Of Counsel in Jones Day’s Milan office Labour Department. He is a visiting lecturer for the MBA program at the Alma Graduate School of Bologna and at the post-graduate program at the University of Bologna. Jones Day is committed to community service in Milan. Luca, together with the Milan team, provides pro bono support and advice to major Italian nonprofit organizations that are active in the protection of women’s and children’s rights and of disadvantaged families, such as Fondazione Pangea, Save the Children and Vidas;

Claudia Barbarano: Claudia works as Community Partnerships Manager at DLA Piper. Based in Rome, she’s responsible for establishing, managing and delivering the relationship with our Key Community Partners and acts as account manager for UNICEF and other international and

national organizations. Prior to that, Claudia worked as Engagement Coordinator on the implementation of the firm's Community programs such as Break into Law in Continental Europe and on the development of the Italian Pro Bono practice. She established the first local pro bono clinic on statelessness and has been responsible for programs in the area of access to justice, children and migrants rights. Before joining DLA Piper, Claudia worked as journalist specialized in human rights and as project manager within the non-profit sector supporting immigrants and LGBTQ+ people inclusions;

Carlo Massini: Carlo is a Banking and Finance Partner in Hogan Lovells' Milan office. Carlo leads the Pro Bono team in the Milan office and is a member of Hogan Lovells' international Social Enterprise Board. Pro Bono legal advice is at the heart of Hogan Lovells' global Citizenship policy, and Carlo supports the participation of the Rome and Milan offices in the firm's international projects, and the development of advice to Italian charities, not-for-profits and social enterprises for direct impact on our community. In 2019 he has coordinated the HL BaSE Catalyst workshop in Milan to support social enterprises, in collaboration with Ashoka;

Annalisa Santini: Annalisa is a qualified lawyer in Italy and is responsible for the pro bono activities of the Milan office of Ashurst. Before joining Ashurst in late 2017, Annalisa worked for one of the major Italian law firms in the London and Milan offices and a US law firm in Milan where she also devoted his work to national and international pro bono activities. Annalisa is also a member of the Diversity&Inclusion committee of the Milan office of Ashurst. Among other projects, she is currently contributing to a legal research – led by the Ashurst's London office – which aims at assessing the extent to which countries are acting to realize human rights affecting the health of women and girls.

The Association Members' Meeting held on 22 May 2020 appointed also a new Secretary General, **Riccardo Favaro**, who introduced himself. Riccardo Favaro works as associate at the Rome office of the law firm Legance Avvocati Associati. From the moment he joined Legance he also began to deal with Third Sector and pro bono matters. As part of this activity he has, among others, collaborated in the drafting of the Guidelines that currently regulate the legal assistance provided by the Association.

NGOs' PRESENTATION

Anziani e Non Solo (“ANS”)

Barbara Giovanna Bello, Project Manager, introduced the NGO. ANS is a NGO working since 2004 in the field of social innovation, with a specific focus on management of project and realization of services and products in the field of welfare and social inclusion. The activities carried out by ANS concerns – among others – active ageing, intergenerational activities, training and support to family carers, prevention of gender based violence, elder abuse and discrimination, and support to employability and to social inclusion of disadvantaged groups. Within its activities, ANS has promoted several project at local, national and european level and, among its clients, there are local and regional administrations, foundations, NGOs, trade unions, job centers, social cooperatives. B. G. Bello introduced the “*Voicelt Project*”, a project aimed at strengthening the LGBTQ+'s voice in politics (see the attached presentation).

Auser Veneto

Monica Marchi, legal counsel of Auser Veneto, presented the NGO. Auser was established in 1989 and is a voluntary and social promotion association, committed to promoting active ageing of the elderly and increasing the role of seniors in society. It proposes to combat all forms of social exclusion, improve the quality of life, enhance the experience, skills, creativity and ideas of older people; develop relations of solidarity and exchange with the younger generations. The associative proposal of Auser is addressed primarily to the elderly, but it is open to relations of dialogue between generations, nationalities, different cultures. M. Marchi wished to highlight that – due to the Covid-19 disease – the NGO had the opportunity to grow up in numbers, involving a higher number of young members and expanding its projects. Among these projects, M. Marchi mentioned a recently opened solidarity clinic for people who cannot access the National Health Service, which is now taking its first steps.

Associazione Stella Cometa

Silvia Superbi (external consultant) and Marco Soliberto (President) presented the NGO. The Stella Cometa association was created to support Africa, inspired by the terrible war occurred in Burundi (1993-2005). In 2004 it was established as a non-profit organization in order to support the most fragile individuals of the society: poor and needy persons as well as immigrants of the city of Cosenza (Calabria, Italy) and in the province of Machakos (Kenya). Stella Cometa's mission is to promote voluntary work to support the dignity of every human being, bearing the needs of those in difficulty, providing health care and stimulating development through the education of the youngest, the training of women and encouraging the conviviality of differences (see the attached presentation).

Strali for Strategic Litigation (Strali)

Jacopo Abbattista, member of Strali, presented the NGO. Strali, founded in Turin in 2018, is the first Italian non-profit association dealing exclusively with strategic litigation. The objective of the strategic litigation is to promote judicial cases whose favourable outcome aims at transcending the interests of the parties involved in order to achieve a wider impact on the national and supranational legal system. The association was created by seven young jurists from Turin and today it includes more than 20 active members working between Turin, Milan and Amsterdam. It is divided into different committees dealing with various fields of law (criminal and penitentiary, immigration, environment, civil, labour) (see the attached presentation).

ORGANISATION/PROGRAMME PRESENTATIONS

Fundación Pro Bono España (FPBE)

Lola Martínez Aragón, Project Manager, presented FPBE. The Fundación is a non-profit organization that coordinates, promotes and spreads pro bono work and culture with the aim of reinforce the third sector through the Law as a transforming and social impact multiplying tool. FPBE aims to (i) facilitate access to justice to those non-profit that, for economic or other

reasons, cannot access them; (ii) generate pro bono culture among all legal actors, creating spaces for reflection on the role of Law as a tool for social change; (iii) act as a catalyst for the legal pro bono, being the meeting point of reference that systematizes, unites and integrates the efforts of the different legal actors. Established in May 2019, it is composed by law firms and more than 200 lawyers and 7 legal clinics (see the attached presentation).

EUROPEAN PRO BONO INITIATIVES

Legal Pro Bono Solidarity Resource Center

G. Carotenuto and Giacomo Gavotti (Herbert Smith Freehills, “HSF”) presented the Legal Pro Bono Solidarity Resource Center (“Resource Center”). Launched by PBI in cooperation with HSF and the two clearinghouses CILD and CSVnet in response to the health emergency, the Resource Center is a database of legal memoranda and tools so as to provide not-for-profit entities with an updated and free guide on the impact thereon of recently issued laws and regulations. The Resource Center is composed of a constantly updated list of briefs and other legal documents coming from participant law firms and lawyers. It aims at supporting support NGO, associations, Third Sector’s entities, social entrepreneurs and private individuals in understanding and resolving legal issues arising from the health emergency. Up to date, the Resource Center counts almost 30 different contributions from 13 different contributors (lawyers, law firms, notaries public, associations of service centres for volunteering) and was consulted more than 600 times with an average consultation time of more than 4 minutes for each access.

European Pro Bono Alliance Meeting 2020

Tomorrow, 18 June 2020, PBI will take part to the European Pro Bono Alliance (“EPBA”) virtual meeting. Besides discussing ideas to strengthening the cooperation between EPBA members, G. Carotenuto will moderate a session on Europe-wide Covid-19 response initiatives, aimed at giving a chance to participants to update each other about news and actions they pursued during the pandemic. Members will share with other European and global partners good practice experiences, successes and lessons learnt. The other sessions of the EPBA Meeting will focus on collaboration and funding opportunities (in order to identify the necessary ingredients for successful collaboration, and discuss ongoing and future possibilities for cooperation and funding) and a discussion about the governance of the EPBA.

Collaborative Project on European Bar Associations and Pro Bono

G. Carotenuto presented the project. PILnet and The European Pro Bono Initiative (informal initiative of European Law Firms) launched this collaborative project in order to prepare a report on European Bar Associations and Pro Bono. The purpose of the project is to highlight positive actions and initiatives of a local Bar Association / Law Society in a particular country towards Pro Bono. The report will present best practices amongst Bar Associations/ Law Societies in supporting pro bono and the Italian contribution to the Project will be prepared by PBI and CILD.

That way, it can be a tool for law firms and clearinghouses to engage with their respective Bar Associations to support developing of pro bono. The results of this study will also be presented during the annual meeting of the European Bars Federation which will be held in Paris in October 2020. The event will gather numerous Bar Presidents and representatives from different European countries and will be an effective venue for discussing the development of Pro Bono in Europe.

PILnet Annual Global Forum

With reference to the PILnet Global Forum, while the in-person forum in Dublin is postponed until next year, a virtual edition will be held on 19-21 October 2020, as a series of live sessions.

PRESENTATION OF DATA RELATED TO PRO BONO ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Valentina Muglia, Project and Operation Assistant of Coalizione Italiana Libertà e Diritti Civili (CILD), and Roberto Museo, Director of CSVnet, provided a presentation of data and figures related to the pro bono requests that the clearinghouse of CILD and CSVnet has received in the latest year.

With reference to CILD, it is worth mentioning that, from 2015 to date, the requests managed by the clearinghouse of CILD and subsequently managed by the network of PBI lawyers have been only those coming from NGOs. Of the more than 130 requests received and forwarded to lawyers in recent years, about 95% have been successfully satisfied. From February 2020, however, there is an important innovation: CILD and PBI opened their cooperative effort in the pro bono legal assistance service also to requests from individuals who have difficulty in accessing justice. Focusing on the analysis of the request for assistance in 2019-2020, in 2019 CILD received 41 requests, 36 of which have been successfully processed, while in the period of time from January to May 2020, CILD's clearinghouse received 16 requests for assistance from NGOs (14 of which have been successfully processed), and 8 request for assistance from individuals (4 of which have been successfully processed) (see the attached presentation).

As concerns CSVnet's clearinghouse – which operates only with requests of assistance from NGOs and association of service centres for volunteering (CSV), R. Museo commented the relevant data and the results achieved so far. Since 2016, when CSVnet started its activity as clearinghouse, it received 68 requests of legal assistance (12 in 2016, 16 in 2017, 16 in 2018, 21 in 2019 and 3 in 2020). R. Museo pointed out that these opinions and memoranda are going to become best practices for all CSVs, as the work is made by a single CSV but the collective impact is much higher. Focusing on the current year, the requests concerned the mandatory statutory and management adjustments due to the changes introduced by the Third Sector Reform and assistance in drafting of contracts and affiliation agreements (see the attached presentation). In order to strengthen their role as clearinghouse, since February CSVnet implemented an area dedicated to the coordination of the CSVs consulting departments for (i) regulatory interpretation; (ii) information and communication; (iii) proposals at the technical legislative panel of the National Forum of the Third Sector; and (iv) training. From January 2020 to date, CSVnet has published: 60 articles of legal nature have been published (including 35 concerning Covid-19 regulations); 2 question-time videos; 2 in-depth papers on volunteering and smart

working; 1 internal training seminar on how to safely carry out volunteering in phase 2 after the Covid-19 lockdown.

G. Carotenuto highlighted that, considering both clearinghouses, the overall figures are as follows: 60 requests received in total in 2019; 27 requests received in total in 2020. Compared to the figures for 2018 (92 requests), 2019 shows a significant decrease, while for 2020, if the rate of the requests were to remain constant, it would probably lead to an **increase** compared to 2019.

3rd EDITION OF ITALY PRO BONO DAY

G. Carotenuto introduced the event, which will take place on **Wednesday, 25 November 2020** (from 10 am to 6 pm), hosted by the Rome office of the law firm Legance Avvocati Associati. The event will be a part of the inaugural European Pro Bono Week, with events being run all across the continent. The program of the Day will be published on PBI's website in due course, also depending on whether the health conditions will allow to hold it as an in-person event or not.

The European Pro Bono Week celebrates the role played by volunteer lawyers, all across Europe, in supporting civil society and human rights organisations and promoting access to justice for those in need. During the week, on each day, events take place across the Continent – from Moscow to Dublin and Rome to Amsterdam – to highlight and promote pro bono culture. European Pro Bono Week is co-organized by the European Pro Bono Initiative (comprising several international law firms), TrustLaw, PILnet and the European Pro Bono Alliance (comprising several national pro bono clearinghouses and legal aid organizations across Europe).

NEXT ITALIAN PRO BONO ROUNDTABLE

The 35th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable will be held on **Wednesday, 30 September 2020** (from 1 to 3 pm), hosted by the Milan office of Herbert Smith Freehills. Further information will be released in due course, also depending on the health situation.