



**PROBONO**  
ITALIA

Minutes of the



Held in Rome on Wednesday, 29 September 2021,  
at the offices of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

**1. Agenda:**

<b>WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS</b>
Pro Bono Italia - <i>Giovanni Carotenuto</i>
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer – <i>Gian Luca Zampa, Fabrizio Arossa, Alessandro Gnoato</i>
<b>PRESENTATIONS FROM NGOs NEW TO OUR NETWORK</b>
A Buon Diritto - <i>Alessandro Paccione</i>
<b>PRO BONO INITIATIVES IN FAVOUR OF THE AFGHAN POPULATION</b>
PILnet - <i>Jasmine Simperingham</i>
(UK/Cont. Europe) Working Group on Pro Bono Collaborative Response to Afghanistan Crisis - <i>Amy Grunske</i>
Rete Spes - <i>Daria Sartori, Federico Di Salvo</i>
<b>LAUNCH OF CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRO BONO ITALIA'S CLEARINGHOUSE</b>
Pro Bono Italia - <i>Giulia Patanè</i>
<b>PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON EUROPEAN BARS AND PRO BONO</b>
DLA Piper - <i>Özgür Kahale</i>
<b>PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST PRO BONO INDEX</b>
TrustLaw - Thomson Reuters Foundation - <i>Adriano Mancinelli</i>

<b>REPORT ON THE STATE OF LEGAL PRO BONO IN SPAIN</b>
Fundación Pro Bono España - <i>Leire Larracoechea</i>
<b>PRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PRO BONO WEEK 2021</b>
European Pro Bono Initiative – <i>Karina Fletcher</i>

**2. Attendees:** 60 (see attached LoPs).

**3. Introduction**

Giovanni Carotenuto, Co-founder and President of Pro Bono Italia (“PBI”), welcomed the 60 attendees to the 39th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable (“RT”), held virtually.

Gian Luca Zampa and Fabrizio Arossa, Partners of the Rome office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (“Freshfields”) along with the associate Alessandro Gnoato, joined Giovanni in welcoming the participants and briefly described the firm’s history focusing on pro bono activities, both abroad and Italy projects.

**4. Presentations from NGOS new to our Network**

A Buon Diritto Onlus (“ABD”). Alessandro Paccione, trainee of the Rome office of Freshfields and member of ABD, presented the NGO. ABD has been working for years to promote the recognition of those rights that, although provided for the Italian legal system, are not, in reality, adequately protected. ABD deals with human, social and civil rights, deprivation of liberty, right of asylum, anti-racism and anti-discrimination, torture, prison system, police abuse, psychiatric restraint, anti-prohibitionism and therapeutic freedom. To this purpose, ABD offers a free legal desk for migrants and asylum seekers, whereas its operators carry out a service of legal assistance and orientation in different principals. Thanks to its research activity and experience in the field, ABD writes several reports and documents and promotes and supports several campaigns at local, national and European level.

**5. Pro bono initiatives in favour of the Afghan population**

Jasmine Simperingham (PILnet) talks about PILnet’s project aimed at securing legal pathways to safety for those left behind and at risk of harm in Afghanistan. PILnet and its partners within the GRF Pledge Legal Community would like to seek urgent submissions of interest from firms, legal clinics, other legal actors and donors who are interested in being involved in building, funding or implementing collaborative pro bono projects to address the needs of Afghans seeking for help. The focus in the short term would be on building such projects to provide legal support to the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR) and Global Refugee-led Network-MENA (GRN-MENA) as they seek to support Afghans with information about legal pathways and to file applications for relevant visas in the US, UK, Canada, Australia and Europe (see the attached presentation).

Amy Grunske (UK/Cont. Europe Working Group on Pro Bono Collaborative Response to Afghanistan Crisis) presented the numerous initiatives that are arising throughout Europe to support Afghan population in this crisis. The Working Group is composed of 80 individuals leading pro bono practices from 42 member firms with offices in the UK and Europe, and aims at sharing information and contacts, streamlining approaches to NGOs and assisting with triaging/referrals, developing structured new pro bono projects (full training and supervision provided) in partnership with asylum experts and specifically focused on assisting Afghan individuals in Afghanistan and

in third countries with routes to the UK and European countries, and those already in the UK and Europe, as well as at supporting the expansion of already existing structured pro bono projects (full training and supervision provided) with asylum experts focused on refugees and asylum seekers more generally who are already in the UK and Europe. There are several ongoing projects currently run throughout the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Turkey.

Daria Sartori of Rete Spes presented the Rule 39 Project (Europe). The project consists of a collaboration between human rights lawyer Daria Sartori, Coalizione Italiana per le Libertà (CILD) and 8 firms who will contribute 6500 euros each towards the cost of the project. Volunteer pro bono lawyers at each firm will be trained and supervised by D. Sartori to support NGOs to make complete and effective Rule 39 ECHR (European Court of Human Rights) interim measures applications on behalf of individuals in need. The project will focus (at least initially) on applications made for asylum seekers and migrants based in Italy, Greece and Turkey (with possible further expansion for those located in France, Poland, Spain and Germany), within the topic areas of country entries, reception conditions and certain aspects of family reunification. Finally, the project will primarily focus on Afghan individuals; however, given the extensive need in this area, it will also assist asylum seekers and migrants of other nationalities.

In addition to the above, Federico Di Salvo, President of Rete Spes, presented the association. Rete Spes is a network of professionals in the social, human, political and international legal sciences at the service of individuals, law firms, individuals, businesses, organizations and institutions for the protection and promotion of lasting solutions for the person, for law, for peace. Rete Spes assists and advises people who consider themselves victims of serious violations of fundamental rights or discrimination. Rete Spes also trains and supports legal and social professionals in the areas of the rule of law, integration and fundamental rights.

## **6. Launch of crowdfunding campaign relating to the establishment of Pro Bono Italia's clearinghouse**

Giulia Patanè, external consultant of Pro Bono Italia, presented the countdown for the crowdfunding campaign arranged by Pro Bono Italia to support the establishment of its clearinghouse („PBI CH”). Following a periodic sharing of campaign's info (from 1 to 18 October 2021), the crowdfunding campaign will be effectively launched on 18 October 2021. The results of the campaign will be presented by Pro Bono Italia during the fourth edition of the Italy Pro Bono Day, which will take place on 24 November 2021. The PBI CH will enter into business on 1 January 2022 (see the attached presentation).

## **7. Presentation of the Report on European Bars and Pro Bono**

Özgür Kahale presented the Report on European Bars and Pro Bono, which was commissioned by the European Pro Bono Initiative, a group of Pro Bono Managers working for international law firms managing pro bono practices in Continental Europe. The aim of the report is to highlight how different Bars in Europe view and support pro bono. The report is based on analysis of questionnaires prepared by individuals and pro bono clearinghouses surveying 12 European countries. European Pro Bono Initiative aims to promote and stimulate the growth of pro bono in Europe. As a part of this effort, this report shall serve as a resource for European Bars seeking to engage or learn more about the ways their peers support and encourage pro bono. Furthermore, this report shall serve as a tool for law firms and clearinghouses to engage with their respective Bars to start a conversation on how to develop pro bono further together (see the attached presentation).

## **8. Presentation of the results of the latest Pro Bono Index**

Adriano Mancinelli presented the 2020 TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono, produced by the Thomson Reuters Foundation to map the global scale and trends of the pro bono legal sector. Today's index uses data sourced from 215 law firms representing 150,000 lawyers from 91 countries – a testament to the growing practice of pro bono legal assistance across the world, and during a period of unprecedented global crisis. From the Index it emerges that the practice of pro bono is growing, fuelled by a desire to support the local community, and in sectors directly linked to the needs arising from these ongoing global emergencies. Lawyers have given a staggering 4 million hours of pro bono work over the last year to charities, social enterprises and individuals, providing crucial support to advance a wide range of issues from access to justice, economic development and microfinance, to human rights, women and LGBT+ rights, freedom of speech, sustainability and climate change. The Thomson Reuters Foundation has long championed the practice of pro bono; scaling and developing the sector has been core to the work of TrustLaw, its pro bono legal network now the largest in the world and launched over a decade ago (see the attached presentation).

## **9. Report on the state of legal pro bono in Spain**

Leire Larracochea of Fundación Pro Bono España („Fundación”) presented their report on the state of legal pro bono in Spain (see the attached presentation).

## **10. Presentation of the European Pro Bono Week 2021**

Karina Fletcher of European Pro Bono Initiative presented the 2021 edition of the European Pro Bono Week. European Pro Bono Week is an exciting initiative organized collaboratively by PILnet, law firms members of the European Pro Bono Initiative, and pro bono clearinghouses and organizations.

At its third edition, from 22 to 26 November 2021, the EPBW 2021 will run throughout 17 countries to discuss about “The status and future of pro bono in Europe”, including Italy, where – on 24 November 2021 – it will take place the fourth edition of the Italy Pro Bono Day.