

Latin Lawyer - Vance Center Pro Bono Survey 2025



Welcome

Welcome to Latin Lawyer and the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice of the New York City Bar Association's joint annual pro bono survey.

Law firms across Latin America have the opportunity to participate in the survey, sharing information on their progress in implementing pro bono programmes in their firms. The survey will track the process of institutionalising pro bono practice, highlight the significant efforts and achievements of participating firms and thus encourage more firms to follow in their path.

Please note that the survey results are published in an aggregated basis and we do not publish individual law firms' responses.

Also note that this survey largely focuses on pro bono work done in 2024, the last full year.

Survey responses are used to determine the Pro Bono Leading Lights. In countries with functioning clearing houses, firms are awarded points across the following categories: Law firm's pro bono infrastructure, recognition of lawyers' pro bono work, pro bono work done, support of clearing house. In countries where there is no clearing house, points are awarded between the first three categories (law firm's pro bono infrastructure, recognition of lawyers' pro bono work, pro bono work done), and a weighting is applied.

We estimate that it will take no longer than 45 minutes to complete. We ask that you do so no later than **Friday 25th July 2025**.

We thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

IMPORTANT: Ensure that you navigate to the end of the questionnaire and click 'Complete' so that your response is logged. Partial responses will not be saved.

Part 1: General information

Firm details

1. What is the name of your firm? *

2. What country is your firm located in? *

- ☐ Argentina
- ☐ Bolivia
- ☐ Brazil
- ☐ Chile
- ☐ Colombia
- ☐ Costa Rica
- ☐ Dominican Republic
- ☐ Ecuador
- ☐ El Salvador
- ☐ Guatemala
- ☐ Honduras
- ☐ Mexico
- ☐ Nicaragua
- ☐ Panama
- ☐ Paraguay
- ☐ Peru
- ☐ Uruguay
- ☐ Venezuela

3. Name and title of person completing the survey *

4. Please provide the email address of person completing the survey *

Introductory questions

5. Are you happy for the name of your firm to appear in a list of firms that participated in the survey and/or to be contacted about the possibility of revealing more information? *

(Please note that one reason we ask this is to know whether you would be happy for your firm to be listed as a Pro Bono Leading Light should it meet the necessary criteria. No firm-specific data will be divulged).

- ☐ Yes, I am happy for the name of my firm to appear
- ☐ No, I would prefer my firm's name not to appear

6. Do you agree for your responses to this survey to be shared with the clearing house your firm belongs to? *

- ☐ Yes, information can be shared with the clearing house the firm belongs to
- ☐ No, please do not share the firm's responses with the clearing house
- ☐ The firm is not a member of any clearing house

7a. Is your firm a signatory of the Pro Bono Declaration for the Americas (PBDA)? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you are not sure, check [here](#). If you think the information is not correct, please send an email to [The Vance Center](#).

7b. If it is a signatory, does the firm publicise its commitment to/support of the PBDA?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

7c. If yes, please provide details

7d. If your firm is based in Mexico, is your firm a signatory to the Mexican Pro Bono Standards?

7b (alternative). If your firm is not a signatory of the PBDA, why? What would make you consider signing?

Part 2: Infrastructure of the firm's pro bono programme

Pro bono coordinator

8a. Does your firm have a pro bono coordinator? *

- ☐ Yes

- ☐ No

8b. What gender does your pro bono coordinator identify as?

- ☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Non-binary

8c (i). Does the pro bono coordinator work full time on pro bono-related projects?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

8c (ii). If no, roughly how many hours per week does the pro bono coordinator spend on pro bono coordination?

8d. Is the pro bono coordinator a practising lawyer?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

9. Are you part of the Pro Bono Network of the Americas 'Pro Bono Coordinators' group?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Pro bono committee

10a. Does your firm have a pro bono committee? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

10b. As a percentage, how many of the pro bono committee members are women? *

- ☐ 1-10%
☐ 11-20%
☐ 21-30%
☐ 31-40%
☐ 41-50%
☐ 51-60%
☐ 61-70%
☐ 71-80%
☐ 81-90%
☐ 91-99%
☐ 100%

10c. Who is in the pro bono committee? *

- ☐ Partners only
☐ Associates only
☐ Partners and associates
☐ Other

If other, please specify *

Associates

11. Is pro bono work considered in evaluations of associates? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

12. Does pro bono work affect determinations on associate salary, bonuses and advancement? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

13a. Does your firm treat pro bono hours like billable hours in terms of associate compensation? (Minimum of 20 hours per year.) *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

13b. If yes, does your firm have a cap of pro bono hours that count towards billable hours?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

13c. What is the cap?

Partners

14. Is pro bono taken into account for partner compensation? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

15a. Does your firm do anything else to increase partner participation in pro bono? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

15b. If yes, please describe briefly *

16. Is every pro bono project supervised by at least one partner? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Part 3: Eligibility for pro bono services

17a. Does the firm have a formal procedure for approving pro bono cases? *

- ☐ Yes

☐ No

17b. If yes, please explain briefly this procedure. *

18. What factors does your firm consider when approving pro bono cases? *

- ☐ Nature of the case
- ☐ Form of assistance requested
- ☐ Necessary legal knowledge
- ☐ Availability of more adequate resources to help the particular client
- ☐ Level of public interest
- ☐ Possible conflicts of interest
- ☐ Actual conflict of interest
- ☐ Availability of firm resources
- ☐ Projected fixed costs
- ☐ If the issue deals with a particular group of clients
- ☐ Financial situation of the client/s
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify: *

Part 4: Relationship with clearinghouses and other organisations

19a. Is your firm a member of a pro bono foundation, institute or clearinghouse? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

19b. If yes, please tell us which:

- ☐ Alianza Pro Bono Perú (Peru)
- ☐ Appleseed México (Mexico)
- ☐ Centro Interdisciplinario de Derecho Social y Economía Política (CIDSEP UC) (Paraguay)
- ☐ Comisión de Trabajo Pro Bono e Interés Público Colegio de Abogados de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- ☐ Comisión Pro Bono del Colegio de Abogados de Costa Rica (Costa Rica)
- ☐ Fundación Barra Mexicana (Mexico)
- ☐ Fundación Pro Bono Chile (Chile)
- ☐ Fundación Pro Bono Colombia (Colombia)
- ☐ Fundacion Pro Bono Guatemala (Guatemala)
- ☐ Fundación Pro Bono Venezuela, ProVene (Venezuela)
- ☐ Instituto Pro Bono Brasil (Brazil)

- ☐ Fundación Pro Bono República Dominicana (Dominican Republic)
- ☐ Centro Mexicano Pro Bono (Mexico)
- ☐ Fundación Pro Bono Uruguay (Uruguay)
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify: *

19b (alternative) (i). If no, would your firm consider becoming a member?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

19b (alternative) (ii). Please explain your answer.

20. Does your firm have a board member on the pro bono foundation, institute or clearinghouse? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable - there is no clearing house in my jurisdiction

21a. Does your firm make a financial contribution at the recommended level to that pro bono foundation, institute or clearinghouse? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable - there is no clearing house in my jurisdiction

21b. If yes, what was the total sum that your firm contributed to the clearinghouse in 2024 (local currency)?

22. Has your firm made a financial contribution for 2025? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable - there is no clearing house in my jurisdiction

23. Will your firm make a contribution for 2026? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable - there is no clearing house in my jurisdiction

24. Does your firm have a dedicated annual budget for out-of-pocket expenses related to pro bono cases beyond its annual financial contribution to a local clearinghouse? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Part 5: Tracking of pro bono work and measuring impact

Impact and Targets

25a. Does your firm measure its pro bono work? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

25b. If yes, please briefly explain how your firm measures its pro bono work and specifically whether senior managers are involved in reviewing or measuring pro bono work. *

26a. Has your firm implemented a dedicated mechanism/methodology to track pro bono work? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

26b. If yes, please describe mechanism/methodology *

27. Does your firm report its pro bono hours to a clearing house? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ The firm is not a member of a clearing house

28a. Does your firm measure the impact of its pro bono work? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

28b. Please explain how. *

29a. Does your firm have a requirement or target for pro bono hours completed by each lawyer at the firm? *

- ☐ Yes, a requirement
- ☐ Yes, a target
- ☐ No

29b. If yes, what is the requirement/target? *

30. Please list the below in order of importance as motivators for doing pro bono, where 1 is the most important *

- Professional duty to society
- Retaining talent
- Maintaining or developing client relationships
- Bar requirements
- PBDA commitment

Firm statistics

31. How many lawyers are at the firm? *

- ☐ 1-10
- ☐ 11-20
- ☐ 21-30
- ☐ 31-50
- ☐ 51-70
- ☐ 71-100
- ☐ 101+

32. What was the total number of pro bono hours completed by your firm in 2024? *

- ☐ Less than 100
- ☐ 100 to 250
- ☐ 251 to 500
- ☐ 501 to 750
- ☐ 751 to 1000
- ☐ More than 1000
- ☐ N/A, no record, or confidential

33. How many pro bono hours did your firm average per associate in 2024? *

- ☐ Less than 5
- ☐ 5 to 9
- ☐ 10 to 19
- ☐ 20 to 29
- ☐ 30 or more
- ☐ N/A, no record, or confidential

34. How many pro bono hours did your firm average per partner in 2024? *

- ☐ Less than 5
- ☐ 5 to 9
- ☐ 10 to 19
- ☐ 20 to 29
- ☐ 30 or more
- ☐ N/A, no record, or confidential

35. How many of the firm's lawyers (as a %) completed at least 5 hours of pro bono work in 2024? *

- ☐ 1-10%
- ☐ 11-20%
- ☐ 21-30%
- ☐ 31-40%
- ☐ 41-50%
- ☐ 51-60%
- ☐ 61-70%
- ☐ 71-80%
- ☐ 81-90%
- ☐ 91-99%
- ☐ 100%

36. How many of the firm's lawyers (as a %) completed at least 10 hours of pro bono work in 2024? *

- ☐ 1-10%
- ☐ 11-20%
- ☐ 21-30%
- ☐ 31-40%
- ☐ 41-50%
- ☐ 51-60%
- ☐ 61-70%
- ☐ 71-80%
- ☐ 81-90%
- ☐ 91-99%
- ☐ 100%

37. How many of the firm's lawyers (as a %) completed at least 20 hours of pro bono work in 2024, as indicated by the Pro Bono Declaration of the Americas (PBDA)? *

- ☐ 1-10%
- ☐ 11-20%
- ☐ 21-30%
- ☐ 31-40%
- ☐ 41-50%
- ☐ 51-60%
- ☐ 61-70%
- ☐ 71-80%
- ☐ 81-90%
- ☐ 91-99%
- ☐ 100%

38. How many pro bono cases did your firm complete in 2024? *

- ☐ 1 to 5
- ☐ 6 to 10
- ☐ 11 to 20
- ☐ 21 to 30
- ☐ More than 30
- ☐ This data was not recorded

39. How do these numbers compare with 2023? *

- ☐ We did less pro bono work in 2024 than in 2023
- ☐ We did the same amount of pro bono work in 2024 as we did in 2023
- ☐ We did more pro bono work in 2024 than we did in 2023

Type of pro bono work

40. By practice area, what type of pro bono matters did your firm take on the most in 2024?

You may select up to five practice areas.

- ☐ Anti-corruption
- ☐ Bankruptcy
- ☐ General corporate law
- ☐ Data privacy
- ☐ Dispute resolution
- ☐ Employment law
- ☐ Environmental law (policy)
- ☐ Environmental law (litigation)
- ☐ Family law
- ☐ Finance law
- ☐ Human rights (disability rights, ethnic rights, LGBTQ+, etc)
- ☐ Immigration law
- ☐ Insurance law
- ☐ Intellectual property
- ☐ Legal reform/strategic litigation (amici curiae, etc)
- ☐ Mergers & acquisitions
- ☐ Microfinance/small business
- ☐ Real estate law
- ☐ Regulatory/compliance
- ☐ Restructuring/reorganisation
- ☐ Tax
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify *

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41a. Did your firm provide direct pro bono representation to low-income individuals?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

41b. If yes, what did your legal pro bono representation of low-income individuals relate to?

- ☐ Bankruptcy/consumer debt
- ☐ Disability rights
- ☐ Domestic violence
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Employment law
- ☐ Family law
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Human rights
- ☐ Immigration law
- ☐ Indigenous or ethnic rights
- ☐ LGBTQ+
- ☐ Public benefits
- ☐ Rights of elderly
- ☐ Trust, will and estates
- ☐ Veterans
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify *

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42. Which of the following sources do you receive pro bono work from?

- ☐ Pro bono foundations, institutes or clearinghouses
- ☐ Universities and law faculties
- ☐ Social service organisations
- ☐ Non-profit organisations
- ☐ Courts and judges
- ☐ Religious organisations
- ☐ Bar associations
- ☐ Other

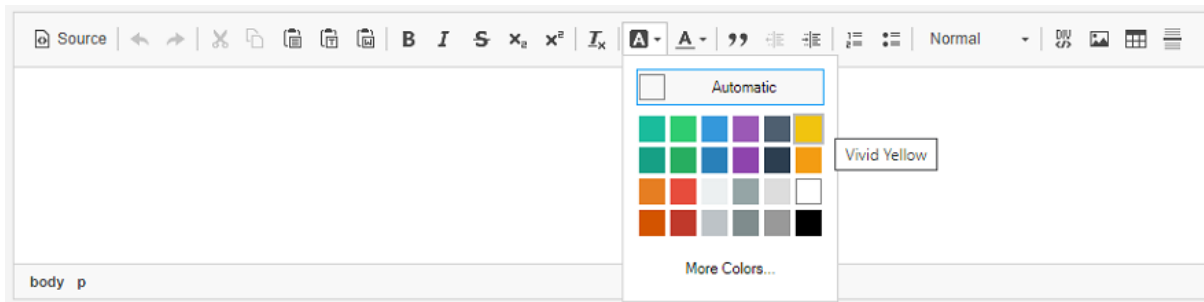
If other, please specify *

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Examples of pro bono work

43. Please provide three examples of pro bono work carried out by your law firm in 2024. Briefly describe each case, your firm's role, the lawyers involved and the impact it has had.

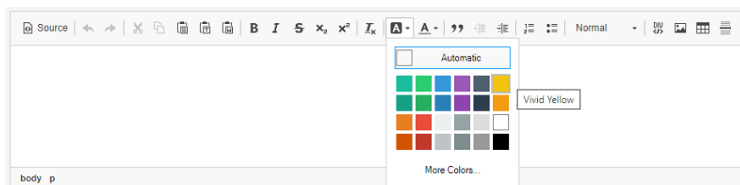
If any information is confidential, you may mark it as such and the information will not be made public. To mark text as confidential, please select the text you wish to make non-publishable and change the background colour to yellow, as shown in the image below.



For the purposes of calculating Leading Lights, please note that we will only consider cases that fit the description of pro bono as outlined in the Pro Bono Declaration of the Americas. This is available to read [here](#).

Pro Bono Case details

To mark text as confidential, please select the text you wish to make non-publishable and change the background colour to yellow, as shown in the image below.



Title of case *

Description of case

Your firm's role *

Who were the lawyers involved? *

What was the impact? *

44. Have you taken part in any pro bono activities that are local to your jurisdiction?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Part 6: Global pro bono programmes

45a. Is your firm part of an international law firm with offices outside of Latin America?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

45b. If yes, please describe the law firm's global pro bono programme and its requirements for your firm.

Part 7: Other information

46a. Do you communicate to your billable clients the pro bono work done by your firm? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

46b. If yes, please explain how. If no, please explain why not. *

47. Do billable clients or potential billable clients ask about pro bono work done by your firm? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

48a. Is pro bono work used to attract new talent to your firm? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

48b. If yes, please explain how. If no, please explain why not. *

49a. Has your pro bono coordinator or committee communicated or collaborated with the Vance Center? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

49b. If yes, please describe briefly the communications and/or collaboration. *

50. How can the Vance Center, as part of the Pro Bono Network of the Americas, support or better support your firm in its pro bono efforts? You can select up to three.

- ☐ Share information regarding best practices through blogs and websites
- ☐ Work with lawyer's associations to improve laws and regulations in the field
- ☐ Annual conferences and roundtables
- ☐ Videoconferences for associates
- ☐ Regional workgroups
- ☐ Other conferences on pro bono and legal aid
- ☐ Assistance by telephone/mentor support
- ☐ Cooperation with US or international firms to discuss pro bono
- ☐ Cooperation with US or international NGOs to discuss pro bono
- ☐ Technical materials on the institutionalization of pro bono
- ☐ Sharing information on regional projects in development
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify *

51. What, in your firm's view, are the biggest impediments to pro bono participation? *

- ☐ Detrimental from a career perspective
- ☐ Excessive regulation or control
- ☐ Lack of financial resources and support
- ☐ Lack of malpractice insurance or protection
- ☐ Lack of adequate opportunities
- ☐ Language barriers
- ☐ Not consistent with the firm or the culture of the employer
- ☐ Not within the specialisation or experience of the firm
- ☐ Time constraints
- ☐ Taxes
- ☐ No impediments
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify *

End of survey

You have reached the end of the questionnaire. Thank you for taking part in our research.
Click **Complete** to submit the form.

Important note: Please review your responses before submitting as you will not be able to retrieve or amend this form once submitted.