



**PRO BONO PLEDGE**

**Statement of Principles**

**RECOGNIZING** that pro bono legal services play an important role in addressing the difficulty some members of society face in accessing the justice system;

**RECOGNIZING** that pro bono legal services are meant to complement, not replace, an adequately funded legal aid system;

**RECOGNIZING** that pro bono practice is part of the legal profession's service ideal and a proud tradition of the legal profession; and

**RECOGNIZING** that pro bono practice is a responsibility shared by the entire legal profession;

**OUR FIRM** is committed to providing and supports our members in providing pro bono legal services. Our firm is pleased to join with other law firms in Saskatchewan in subscribing to the Saskatchewan Law Firm Pro Bono Pledge and in pledging our best efforts to achieve the voluntary goals described.

**Pro Bono Defined**

Pro bono legal services are defined as providing professional legal services without expectation of fee where legal aid is not available for:

- (i) persons of limited means who demonstrate a need for legal assistance but are unable to afford legal counsel without suffering financial hardship;
- (ii) charitable, non-profit, religious, civic, community, governmental and education organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means or which work for the public good of marginalized or disadvantaged individuals or groups;
- (iii) matters of public interest and broad community concern which might not otherwise be pursued; and
- (iv) the improvement of the law or legal system in a manner which benefits marginalized or disadvantaged individuals or groups.

**Pro Bono Commitment**

Our firm is committed to providing high quality pro bono legal services according to the same standards of dedication, excellence, and professional ethics as paid legal services. To underscore our commitment to pro bono practice, all lawyers in our firm are encouraged to engage in and record fifty (50) hours of pro bono work annually through delivery programs approved by Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan Inc. (PBLs). Lawyers in our firm who engage in pro bono work through PBLs-approved programs will receive billable hour recognition for their first fifty (50) hours of pro bono service annually.

Pro bono services will be subject to the same standards and processes as paid legal services, including the identification of client conflicts and the provision of a retainer letter for matters requiring full representation. Unless agreed to in writing, pro bono clients will retain responsibility for disbursements, however, our firm will use its best efforts to minimize these costs.

In addition, our firm commitment extends to:

- (i) establishing a pro bono committee or appointing a pro bono coordinator at our firm;
- (ii) logging all pro bono work in the firm's administrative systems and opening and tracking pro bono files with the same procedures used on any other client file, with the exception of accounts receivable;
- (iii) providing training for and supervision of lawyers engaged in pro bono work;
- (iv) making available our firm's resources including, *inter alia*, the law library, electronic databases, office equipment, and staff time, as required; and
- (v) recognizing the worth of pro bono work to our lawyers, our firm and our community by valuing it favourably in the compensation process.

**SIGNED** at the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Province of Saskatchewan this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

FIRM: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME & TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_