



Pando Principles for Pro Bono Work

The principles for success in the pro bono community and pro bono work are that pro bono is justice-oriented, client-centered, and a core professional obligation; pro bono also requires a strong and collaborative ecosystem and must be sustainably funded. Together, these principles describe what effective pro bono work should look like in practice and what future measures of success should be designed to capture.

Principle	Practical meaning
Justice-oriented	Pro bono strives to ensure access to justice, equity, and fairness by focusing its efforts on legal work for low-income clients and communities, as well as the organizations that support them. It also addresses the needs of other vulnerable populations, impact work, and emerging community challenges.
Client-centered	The work centers the lived experiences of clients and communities, respects their dignity, and focuses on the long-term outcomes that they seek. Pro bono takes a holistic approach to the work and seeks to overcome barriers to representation.
Core professional obligation	The legal profession has a responsibility to do pro bono. It is an integral part of the rule of law, due process, and the legitimacy of the legal system. Pro bono clients are due the same zealous advocacy and excellence as all clients.
Requires a strong and collaborative ecosystem	Collaboration is essential among and between firms, corporations, and legal services organizations to maximize impact on clients and communities, increase efficiency, and build more durable programs.
Must be sustainably funded	Pro bono is not free. Law firms and corporations must meaningfully contribute to offset these costs to LSOs, and advocate for additional funding from the government and other sources.