

For Immediate Release

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Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association Launches MassProBono.org, a Statewide Website Supporting Pro Bono Work in Massachusetts

Boston, MA (April 30, 2014) –The Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association, in partnership with Pro Bono Net, a national nonprofit organization, the Massachusetts Legal Aid Websites Project housed at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and the Massachusetts Bar Association, has launched MassProBono (<http://www.massprobono.org>), a new website that will enhance the delivery of pro bono legal services to people of limited means in Massachusetts.

Developed with funding from a Legal Services Corporation Technology Initiative Grant, MassProBono will support and encourage pro bono work, matching volunteers across the state with a wide variety of opportunities that fit their interests, location, and schedules. MassProBono will also serve to raise awareness of the need for pro bono in the Commonwealth and highlight the great pro bono work the Massachusetts legal community is undertaking.

MassProBono leverages the Pro Bono Net technology platform that features tools for finding pro bono cases and projects, an event calendar, email groups, news feeds, and a resource library. The centerpiece of site is a Pro Bono Opportunities Guide, developed in partnership with the Massachusetts Bar Association, which had built an extensive statewide listing of pro bono opportunities. The Pro Bono Opportunities Guide on MassProBono builds on the MBA's pro bono catalogue and incorporates the interactive functions of the Pro Bono Net platform to create a robust new tool to promote pro bono engagement.

The need for pro bono legal assistance is enormous - an estimated 80% of low-income people have unmet civil legal needs. Pro bono work by attorneys is a crucial means of closing this gap.

By creating a comprehensive pro bono “marketplace” for would-be volunteers across Massachusetts, massprobono.org allows lawyers to focus their energy on doing pro bono work rather than looking for it.

About VLP

The Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association (VLP) provides free civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Greater Boston, primarily through the pro bono services of private attorneys. Founded in 1977, VLP is among the first organized pro bono efforts in the country. For more information, please visit www.vlpnet.org.