



Minnesota State Bar Association
 600 Nicollet Mall #380
 Minneapolis, MN 55402
 (612) 333-1183 | (800) 882-6722

Minnesota State Bar Association Pro Bono Standard

The MSBA Assembly adopted the Pro Bono Standard on June 17, 2008, as amended by the MSBA Council on June 24, 2011.

The MSBA Pro Bono Standard encourages participating firms to meet the Standard by achieving a minimum level of pro bono service from its lawyers of:

1. one percent of the firm’s lawyers’ collective billable hours during the first year in which the firm participates and reports,
2. two percent during the second year, and
3. three percent during and after the third year for firms with more than 100 lawyers (firms with 100 or fewer lawyers may remain at the two percent level), or,
4. alternatively, for corporate law departments and governmental or other public law offices, at least one-half of its lawyers participate in pro-bono service during each year.

The Standard shall be met primarily by the delivery of legal services to persons of limited means or to organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means. Pro bono service that satisfies Minnesota Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1(a) or 6.1(b)(1)-(2) counts toward the MSBA Pro Bono Standard.

For purposes of the MSBA Pro Bono Standard, a firm includes any lawyer or group of lawyers who constitute a “firm” within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct, including but not limited to a legal-services organization, a corporate law department, and a governmental or other public law office.

MSBA Pro Bono Standard Enrollment

As a Participant in the MSBA Pro Bono Standard, we recognize the importance of pro bono service as exemplified in Rule 6.1 of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct, Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service. We pledge to meet the MSBA Pro Bono Standard for the calendar year _____. We further pledge to report to the MSBA the percentage of our lawyers’ collective billable hours spent on pro bono work or, for corporate law departments and governmental or other public law offices, the percentage of lawyer participation, for the calendar year _____.

Name and Title: _____

Firm/Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return to: Steven Marchese, Pro Bono Development Director, MSBA, 600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 380, Minneapolis, MN 55402, facsimile 612.333.4927, email: smarchese@mnbar.org.

MSBA Pro Bono Standard Participant Report

As a Participant in the MSBA Pro Bono Standard, we recognize the importance of pro bono service as legal professionals as exemplified in Rule 6.1 of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct, Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service. We pledged to meet the MSBA Pro Bono Standard for the calendar year _____ and further pledged to report to the MSBA the percentage of our lawyers' collective billable hours spent on pro bono work or, for corporate law departments and governmental or other public law offices, the percentage of lawyer participation during that year _____.

Contact Information

Name and Title: _____

Firm/Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Participation Information

Years of participation in the MSBA Pro Bono Standard, including the year currently being reported: (check one)

1 2 3 4 or greater

Hours of Pro Bono Service and Percentage of Lawyer Participation

The Standard shall be met primarily by the delivery of legal services to persons of limited means or to organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means. Pro bono service that satisfies Minnesota Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1(a) or 6.1(b)(1)-(2) counts toward the MSBA Pro Bono Standard.

For purposes of calculating billable hours, the firm's lawyers exclude any lawyer or other timekeeper whose primary office is outside Minnesota. Billable hours may include or exclude summer associates or paralegals, as long as the firm's total billable hours include the total billable hours of any timekeeper whose work is included in the hours that count toward the Standard.

Percentage of firm's lawyers' collective billable hours spent on pro bono work which counts toward the MSBA Pro Bono Standard: _____%

Percentage of lawyer participation in pro bono work which counts toward the MSBA Pro Bono Standard: _____% (for corporate legal departments and governmental or other public law offices)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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