



# THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES, ACCESS & FAIRNESS PROGRAMS

Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services

Chair, Karin Wang, Los Angeles

180 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105

Telephone (415) 538-2267 Fax (415) 538-2552

November 2008

Dear Newly Admitted Attorney:

Congratulations and welcome to the State Bar! The members of the Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services hope your years of dedicated study and preparation will result in a fulfilling and successful legal career. We hope you will also bear in mind the many advantages that pro bono work offers you, both as part of your professional development and as a responsibility of bar membership. There is a range of pro bono opportunities available in every county in California to help improve access to justice for those unable to afford legal counsel. You can enhance your legal skills while making a lasting difference in the lives of your clients.

While the low-income population continues to grow in California, funding for indigent legal services has not kept pace. Today less than one third of the civil legal needs of the state's poor are being met by about 100 nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing legal help to low-income and vulnerable individuals. Many of these programs have pro bono components through which tens of thousands of private attorneys donate their time to assist low-income people who would not otherwise have access to the legal system.

The State Bar of California urges all attorneys to contribute at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services each year. In 2002 the State Bar Board of Governors strengthened its [Pro Bono Resolution](#) to reflect a renewed commitment to pro bono. Please follow the link to read the Board's expression of your professional commitment. The American Bar Association, and other state and local bar associations have adopted similar resolutions, recognizing pro bono as an important professional responsibility. Also, pro bono programs across the state provide training, free MCLE courses, malpractice coverage, and the opportunity to network with experienced practitioners and members of the judiciary.

To find [pro bono opportunities in your community](#) or for more information about [pro bono resources](#), please follow the links. You may also contact Rodney Low ([rodney.low@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:rodney.low@calbar.ca.gov) or 415-538-2219), or Sharon Ngim ([sharon.ngim@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:sharon.ngim@calbar.ca.gov) or 415-538-2267) at the State Bar Office of Legal Services, Access & Fairness Programs.

Again, congratulations and best wishes for your legal career.

Sincerely,

*Karin Wang*

Karin Wang

Chair, 2008-2009

Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services