



SANTA CLARA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
LAW FIRM PRO BONO PLEDGE

In 2005 the Santa Clara County Bar Association (SCCBA) Board of Trustees, recognizing the growing need for the provision of legal services to indigent members of the community, passed a resolution encouraging *pro bono* service by its members.

[Name of Law Firm] _____, located at _____

(the Firm) supports the SCCBA 2005 resolution to increase legal services for those who would not otherwise have access to representation. The Firm further recognizes that community service is a matter of good business.

Accordingly, the Firm pledges the following:

- 1.) The Firm will use its best efforts to ensure that the Firm will annually contribute, on average, a minimum of 60 hours per attorney of *pro bono* legal services to members of the Silicon Valley community. A substantial majority of that service shall be rendered without fee, or expectation of fee, directly to persons of limited means. Acknowledging that success in the provision of 60 hours of direct *pro bono* work would be a significant accomplishment and contribution, the Firm will also encourage each individual attorney to aspire to contribute an additional 40 hours of *pro bono* legal services for a total of 100 hours. The additional hours to meet the 60 hour requirement and/or to meet the aspirational goal of the 40 extra hours may be met as follows:
 - a. Legal services provided without fee, or expectation of fee, directly to persons of limited means;
 - b. Legal services provided without fee or expectation of fee to charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means;
 - c. Legal services provided for no fee or for a substantially reduced fee to individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights, or charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, where the payment of standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would be otherwise inappropriate;

- d. Legal services provided at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means;
 - e. Activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession, such as court pro tem service or other services to the courts that promote the administration of, and access to, justice; and
 - f. Board service for nonprofit organizations that directly provide legal services to persons of limited means.
- 2.) The Firm will support participation by all of its attorneys in *pro bono* activities. Specifically, the Firm will:
- a. Provide a broad range of *pro bono* opportunities, training, and supervision to attorneys in the Firm, to ensure that all of our attorneys can avail themselves of the opportunity to do *pro bono* work;
 - b. Ensure that the Firm's policies with respect to evaluation, advancement, productivity, and compensation of its attorneys are compatible with the Firm's strong commitment to encourage and support substantial *pro bono* participation; and
 - c. Use the Firm's best efforts to ensure that partners as well as associates participate in *pro bono* work;
- 3.) The Firm will monitor the hours spent in *pro bono* activities and will report the *pro bono* hours annually to the Santa Clara County Bar Association.
- 4.) Recognizing the obligation of law firms to contribute financial support to organizations that provide legal services free of charge to persons of limited means, the Firm will also encourage the attorneys in the Firm to make individual contributions in an amount equal to one billable hour to a legal service agency serving the legal needs of persons of limited means in Santa Clara County, or to the Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services.

I warrant that I have authority to sign this pledge on behalf of the Firm

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2008

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Title _____

On Behalf of:

Name of Firm _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

Website _____

Please e-mail the signed pledge to Chrisb@scbba.com, fax it to (408) 287-6083, or mail it to:

**Santa Clara County Bar Association
Pro Bono Pledge Drive
31 N. Second Street, 4th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113**