



Section News

Model Law Firm Pro Bono Policy Adopted

The governing body of the Section, the Section Council, has voted to adopt a Model Law Firm Pro Bono Policy for its membership. A copy of the policy is posted on the Section's website at www.abanet.org/labor (click on "Pro Bono" in the left-hand menu).

The model pro bono policy was drafted and submitted to the Council by the Section's Pro Bono Committee. When the committee was established, one of its charges was to develop a model pro bono policy for Section members to consult in adopting pro bono policies in practices that relate to labor and employment law. The Section's adoption of a model pro bono policy lends support to the ABA's initiative to increase lawyers'

pro bono activities.

The policy suggests that law firms encourage all lawyers to perform at least 50 hours of pro bono work per year and that the firms consider those hours as the equivalent of billable hours. The policy also suggests that law firms establish a pro bono committee or a pro bono coordinator to oversee firm pro bono activities.

The Pro Bono Committee recommends firms distribute a copy of the pro bono policy annually to all lawyers.

The committee also reminds Section members that they must consult state and local bar association rules before instituting firm pro bono policies. ■

Call for Authors

Share your wisdom and expertise with new lawyers by submitting brief substantive articles for the ABA Young Lawyers Division's "101" and "201" Website Series. The series are intended to provide "the basics" (101) or "just beyond the basics" (201) on a wide array of substantive areas—including labor and employment law—in an easily accessible form. Articles are published on the YLD website and cross-linked on the Section's "Young Lawyers" page. See samples of already-published articles at www.abanet.org/labor/yl/home.shtml. For more information or to submit a 101 or 201 article, please contact the Section's YLD liaison, Lynlee Wells Palmer, at 205/458-9494 or lpalmer@johnstonbarton.com.

Wendy Brenner Receives Frances Perkins Public Service Award

When the Stanford Community Law Clinic put out a request for pro bono assistance on a heavily litigated wage and hour case, the Palo Alto office of Cooley Godward Kronish replied that it had an associate returning from maternity leave who might agree to handle the case. The case involved the pro bono representation of a restaurant kitchen worker who was owed about \$90,000 in unpaid wages and penalties.

The associate, Wendy Brenner, was presented the 2007 Frances Perkins Public Service Award at the Section's 2007 Annual CLE Conference in Philadelphia.

Brenner and colleagues at Cooley Godward spent many hours of pro bono time on the matter. The case included an interlocutory appeal to the California Supreme Court on a key issue for immigrant employees: whether it is permissible for the employer's counsel to ask about an employee's immigration status after the employee has filed a complaint. The case settled before the Court ruled on the issue.

Brenner's pro bono commitment, and the support of Cooley Godward Kronish, exemplify the spirit of the Frances Perkins Award. The Section established the award to recognize individuals or organizations that demonstrate a significant commitment to providing pro bono legal services primarily in the areas of labor and employment law to persons of limited means or to nonprofit, governmental, civic, community, or religious organizations designed primarily to address the needs of individuals with limited means.



National Academy of Arbitrators & BNA Introduce a Free Authoritative Online Publication

Since 1948, the National Academy of Arbitrators has published an annual anthology of essays on workplace dispute resolution. Some of the essays—such as Richard Mitenthal's on past practice and John Dunsford's on just cause and the

"seven tests"—are considered classics that have shaped arbitral authority and the day-to-day practice of arbitration. Now, the nearly 1,000 works comprising *Dispute Resolution in the Workplace* are available, free-of-charge, as a public service

of the National Academy and BNA Books. Each essay can be easily located in the searchable database by author, subject matter, or case name. And to speed research, each essay has been summarized in a few sentences, enabling busy read-

ers to quickly understand its most important points.

Go to the National Academy of Arbitrators' website, www.naarb.org, and click on "Dispute Resolution in the Workplace" on the lower left of the home page. ■