

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CISC-762/15
19 March 2015
Original: Spanish

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PRESENTED PURSUANT TO ITEM 6
OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Fundación Pro Bono]

ANALYSIS OF THE APPLICATION BY *FUNDACIÓN PRO BONO* TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs, Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization *Fundación Pro Bono* (Pro Bono Foundation).

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.” This document includes a summary and list of data and documentation presented by *Fundación Pro Bono* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Fundación Pro Bono is a nonprofit organization established on November 16, 1995, in Chile. Its mission is to help vulnerable individuals, sectors, or groups get access to justice through volunteer or *pro bono* work by a body of lawyers.

Fundación Pro Bono's work focuses on providing work programs and courses of action that are coordinated by professionals engaged in projects geared towards improving access to justice through meetings, seminars, workshops, and lectures, according to the community's needs;

The Foundation comprises more than 30 law firms and 250 lawyers committed to providing poor and vulnerable groups with free legal services;

Fundación Pro Bono has established strategic partnerships with several public and private entities – national and international – in an effort to identify potential beneficiaries of *pro bono* work and to provide lawyers with volunteer opportunities;

The Foundation finances its activities with funds contributed by the organization's member law firms and legal departments.

Fundación Pro Bono submitted its application to the OAS on May 20, 2014.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of Organization:	Fundación Pro Bono
Address:	Sánchez Fontecilla n.370, Las Condes Santiago, Chile
Telephone:	(+56-02) 2381-5660
E-mail address:	tgutierrez@probono.cl
Website:	http://www.probono.cl

President: Pablo Guerrero

Date established: November 3, 2000

3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

Fundación Pro Bono helps vulnerable individuals, sectors, or groups with access to justice through the volunteer effort of its member lawyers. The main areas of activity and contributions of the CSO that may be of interest to the OAS include:

- Helping vulnerable individuals, sectors or groups get better access to justice;
- Organizing professional volunteer services of lawyers through the creation and coordination of *pro bono* networks of law offices and notary offices;
- Mediation to get free legal services and *pro bono* lawyers through strategic partnerships and work programs with public and private entities throughout the Hemisphere;
- Promoting the *pro bono* lawyers initiative among people working in the field and the general public, so as to extend this practice in the Americas.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

Fundación Pro Bono proposes to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Supporting the Inter-American Judicial Facilitators Program of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA) with promotion of civic standards among the population as well as advice on formalities and procedures;
- Organizing awareness campaigns to promote rules and regulations to help mitigate threats and challenges of interest to member states;
- Promoting the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially those related to the rule of law and access to justice and due process;
- Furnishing the Permanent Council's Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) with recommendations and reports on the administration of justice and access to public information, in collaboration with the Secretariat for Legal Affairs' (SLA) Department of International Law;
- Working together with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to promote human rights, in order to guarantee every person in the Americas equal social, economic, and political rights;

- Participation in hemispheric debates and OAS activities with civil society and sending OAS member states recommendations to serve as input for such events as the OAS General Assembly, Permanent Council meetings, IACHR sessions, etc.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated October 9, 2014
- Articles of incorporation and statutes
- Most recent management report - 2013
- Institutional mission statement; and
- 2013 financial statements audited by Juli Bibiana Beltran Bonilla, CPA
- Sources of funding 2013