



## **Statement of Principles for The Chicago Bar Foundation Corporate Leadership Circle**

As lawyers and leaders in the profession, corporate counsel have a special responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to our justice system. Fulfilling that responsibility requires contributions of time and money as well as a strategic use of the influence corporations have in our community. By committing to this Statement of Principles, corporations demonstrate their leadership and make an investment in their employees, in the communities where their employees live and work, and in the future of our system of justice.

- 1. Adopt Written Pro Bono Policies and Practices to Encourage and Support Pro Bono Work**
  - We will adopt and periodically distribute written policies that encourage each attorney in the corporation's legal department to provide pro bono legal services; adopt practices that encourage our lawyers to do pro bono work; and award and recognize lawyers for their pro bono activities, including, among other things, recognition in performance reviews.
  
- 2. Provide Financial Support for Pro Bono, Legal Aid and Access to Justice**
  - We will provide meaningful financial support for pro bono, legal aid and related access to justice initiatives as part of our overall charitable giving in the Chicago area.
  
- 3. Encourage Outside Counsel to Adopt Sound Pro Bono Policies and Practices**
  - We will encourage pro bono service and other assistance at the outside law firms which we employ, and consider the pro bono commitment of law firms in making future hiring decisions.
  - Specifically, to underscore the importance we place on promoting pro bono and equal access to justice, we will encourage our outside law firms in the Chicago area to be members of The Chicago Bar Foundation Law Firm Leadership Circle.
  - We will consider granting requests from law firms for conflict of interest waivers in pro bono matters where appropriate and practicable for the corporation.

**4. Adopt Additional Policies and Practices to Support Pro Bono, Legal Aid and Access to Justice When Possible and Practical**

**a. Support Advocacy Efforts Promoting Adequate Government Funding for Legal Aid and Access to Justice**

- When possible and practical, we will support broad-based advocacy efforts at the federal, state, and local levels dedicated to ensure adequate funding for legal aid and access to justice.

**b. Promote Cy Pres Awards for Pro Bono, Legal Aid, and Access to Justice**

- We will encourage our attorneys in matters involving the corporation to advocate for cy pres awards to go to support pro bono, legal aid, and access to justice initiatives when residual funds cannot be returned to the corporation.

**c. Provide Administrative and Legal Support for Pro Bono and Legal Aid Organizations**

- To the extent practicable, we will provide administrative and legal support for pro bono and legal aid organizations; host meetings and events for these organizations; and encourage our legal department's vendors to provide pro bono support to these organizations.

**Corporation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name (print) and Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*For more information about the Corporate Leadership Circle and Statement of Principles, please contact Veronica Gomez, Co-Chair of the Leadership Circle, at (312) 394-4997 or [veronica.gomez@exeloncorp.com](mailto:veronica.gomez@exeloncorp.com), or CBF Executive Director Bob Glaves at (312) 554-1205 or [bglaves@chicagobar.org](mailto:bglaves@chicagobar.org).*