

Time to Prepare for the Rule 6.1 Challenge!



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Every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least (50) hours of *pro bono publico* legal services per year.

IRPC Rule 6.1

- In fulfilling this responsibility, the lawyer should:
- Provide a substantial majority of the (50) hours of legal services without fee or expectation of fee to:
- Persons of limited means **or**
- Charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means; and
- Provide any additional services through:
- Delivery of legal services at no fee or 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;
- Delivery of legal services at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means; **or**
- **Participation in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession**

THE 6.1 CHALLENGE, NAMED AFTER IRPC 6.1, IS AN EVENT TO ENCOURAGE AND FORMALLY RECOGNIZE PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT BAR THROUGH OFFICE TEAM PARTICIPATION.

THERE HAVE BEEN NO CORPORATE TEAM ENTRIES FOR 3 YEARS!

How the 6.1 Challenge Works

- <https://isb.idaho.gov/ilf/ivlp/6-1-challenge/>
 - Encourage your office to identify pro bono work they already perform.
 - Sign up for new pro bono opportunities.
 - Track Hours from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.
 - Submit the 6.1 Challenge Form(s) by April 2, 2020.

Idaho Pro Bono Opportunities Portal

<https://www.idahoprobono.org/>

- Through IVLP – Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Case opportunities
- Legal Clinic opportunities
- Free training – with signed pledge to provide representation
- Set up an account to receive alerts for the type of cases you want

Upcoming Opportunities

- **Boise Senior and Community Legal Clinic:** February 18th, 10 am to 12 pm at the Dick Eardley Senior Center
- **Garden City Community Legal Clinic:** February 26th, 11 am to 1pm; February 25th from 4-6pm at the Garden City Library
- **Interfaith Sanctuary Legal Clinic:** March 19 from 4 pm to 6pm at the Interfaith Sanctuary Shelter
- **WCA Family Law Clinics:** April 30th from 10 am to 12 pm
- **Veterans General Legal Clinics:** February 14th, March 13th, and April 10th from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Boise VA
- **Veterans Wills Clinics:** March 13th from 9 am to 12 pm at the Boise VA
- To sign up, and for more information, contact Sue Pierson at spierson@isb.idaho.gov. It is easy to plan your pro bono help at these clinics using [VLP's Online Clinic Calendar \[isb.idaho.gov\]](#).

Top Myths of Pro Bono Work

Myth

- I don't have malpractice coverage for that.
- I have too many potential conflicts with potential clients to perform pro bono work.
- I lack the necessary expertise to perform the needed pro bono services.

Reality

- IVLP provides malpractice coverage for pro bono work done through IVLP.
- ISB recognizes limited representation under nonprofit limited legal services programs. See IRPC 6.5 and comments.
- IVLP offers free training to lawyers who pledge to take a case in that area.

Top Myths of Pro Bono Work

Myth

- I can't do pro bono work because I have a house counsel license and I can only represent the organization I work for.

Reality

- Idaho Bar Commission Rule 225 (House Counsel License), section (e) "A person licensed as a house counsel may perform pro bono services in association with an Approved Legal Assistance Organization approved by the Idaho Supreme Court."
- Legal Aid and IVLP are the approved legal assistance organizations in Idaho.