



May 2013 Tip of the Month

New Tool to Learn about Working with People in Poverty

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A pro bono representation is often a cross-cultural relationship between an attorney from middle class and a client from generational poverty. An attorney's failure to understand the challenges that people living in poverty face, and what strategies can overcome those challenges, can complicate, and maybe even derail, a pro bono representation.

To help address this, we have created an interactive educational "Working with Pro Bono Clients" wiki. Topics include:

- * Seeing/Bridging Differences
- * Poverty 101
- * Promoting Understanding
- * Empowerment
- * Strategies for Success
- * Learn More

Below is a screen shot of the first page of the wiki which provides information about the various ways to use the tool. Please email martha@volunteerlawyersnetwork.org with any suggestions or questions you may have.



Welcome to the Working with Pro Bono Clients wiki!

Many attorneys volunteer to help those in poverty access the justice system. However, without an awareness of some common obstacles to a successful representation, we may not get our pro bono clients the best results possible. This site alerts attorneys to some common challenges and provides concrete tips for overcoming them so as to maximize the chances for the success our pro bono clients so desperately need.

To navigate this wiki, you can: 1) choose a topic of interest from the menu bar to the left; 2) scroll through the wiki pages sequentially by clicking on the link at the bottom of each page and/or 3) search for a topic of interest in the box to the above left.



To contribute your thoughts to the wiki, click on the item icon (looks like a push pin) at the top of the page (see image to right next to "o") and follow the prompts. Your comments will be added as a discussion to the bottom of the page. To contribute to an existing discussion, click on the discussion item of interest.

www.wpbc.wikispaces.com