

The logo for the New York City Bar, featuring the text "NEW YORK CITY BAR" in a serif font, centered between two horizontal blue bars.

NEW YORK
CITY BAR

VANCE CENTER

PRO BONO DECLARATION FOR THE AMERICAS

The *Pro Bono Declaration for the Americas* (PBDA) is the first collaborative effort in the Americas to articulate the professional responsibility of lawyers to promote access to justice and provide pro bono legal assistance to poor. Facilitated by the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice of the New York City Bar, the Declaration is the culmination of initiatives that have been developing in Latin America since 2001.

The text of the PBDA was developed over a period of 18 months by a regional committee of Latin American and U.S. lawyers, and was finalized through consultation meetings with members of the legal community in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and New York. Drafting Committee members included: Javier de Belaunde (Peru); Horacio Bernardes Neto (Brazil); Juan E. Cambiaso (Argentina); Todd Crider (New York); Daniel Grunfeld (Los Angeles); Antonio C. Meyer (Brazil); Guillermo Morales (Chile); Paula Samper Salazar (Colombia); Claus von Wobeser (Mexico).

In signing the Declaration, which became effective on January 1, 2008 and which provides a common definition of pro bono, lawyers pledge to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of pro bono work per year. More than 375 law firms, bar associations, law schools, and AGOs in Latin America and the United States have endorsed the PBDA.

The Declaration was formally introduced in New York in January 2008, and launched in Mexico City in February 2008. These events marked the beginning of a three year implementation period to develop projects and create partnerships and institutions to enable lawyers throughout the Americas to meet their pro bono commitment.

English, Spanish and Portuguese versions of the Declaration can be downloaded at www.nycbar.org/vc/text.pdf
A list of signatories is available at www.nycbar.org/vc/decl.pdf