

## THE VANCE CENTER

### *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS*

#### 2006

##### **Vance Center and CIDE hold videoconference on professional responsibility of the legal profession and pro bono practice**

April 2006

In April 2006, the Vance Center collaborated with Alejandro Posadas, clinical professor and Director of the Legal Studies Division at CIDE, and Hugo Eric Flores, professor at the CIDE Legal Studies Division, to develop a videoconference seminar on professional responsibility for students at the law school. Professor Flores opened the seminar with a presentation on pro bono direct legal services and public interest work in Mexico. Elise Colomer, Associate Director at the Vance Center delivered remarks on unmet legal need and the institutionalization of pro bono in the US since the 1960s. Todd Crider, chair of the Vance Center Committee and a lawyer at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, gave an overview of canons of ethics in the United States. Taisa Markus, a lawyer at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP, discussed the firm's experience in institutionalizing pro bono. Ruben Kraiem from Covington & Burling LLP delivered a presentation on the benefits to a lawyer of engaging in pro bono work. The topic of continued involvement after law school in important social issues through pro bono and public interest work was addressed by Antonia Stolper, member of the Vance Center Committee and a lawyer at Shearman & Sterling LLP. The seminar concluded with a 40 minutes Q & A session and discussion..

#### 2005

##### **Vance Center Committee Chair Speaks in Chile on Pro Bono**

May 2005

In May, Todd Crider, the Chair of the [Vance Center Advisory Committee](#) met in Santiago, Chile with the advisory board of Fundación Pro Bono to make a presentation on how U.S. firms support pro bono and public interest organizations.

Mr. Crider also attended a seminar organized by Fundación Pro Bono on the removal of disincentives to individual and corporate donors to make charitable contributions to nonprofits where he gave a presentation on the U.S. legislation governing tax deductible charitable contributions.

At the request of the Chilean Bar Association's Pro Bono Commission, Mr. Crider also made a presentation to the Bar's newly-elected officials on why and how U.S. bar associations support pro bono and public interest NGOs.

## 2004

### **Teleconference Examines the Legal Climate for Microfinance in Argentina**

October 2004

A teleconference on microfinance organized by the Comisión Pro Bono, the Vance Center, and Shearman & Sterling focused on the current microfinance environment in Argentina and the necessary steps for developing a hospitable legal and regulatory regime for microfinance.

Participants included FINCA International, Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP), and Public Counsel in the United States, and a group of 17 participants from bar associations, law firms, law schools and NGOs in Argentina.

### **A Joint Project of Fordham Law School and the Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Palermo in Buenos Aires Examines Models for Popular Rights Education**

August 2004

In 2003-2004, working with the Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Palermo in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Vance Center co-established a program between Fordham University School of Law in New York and the Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ), a social justice organization in Buenos Aires, to develop a technical assistance paper on U.S. and international models for popular rights education and "legal literacy" programs.

This August, one of the Fordham student researchers traveled to Buenos Aires to assist ACIJ on site with the project.

The paper will assist ACIJ in designing a course that will use popular education methods to teach community members about their rights and encourage them to become involved in ACIJ's work.

### **Videoconference on the Informal Economy and Micro-enterprise in Chile Gives Rise to New Partnerships**

July 21, 2004

In collaboration with Fundación Pro Bono, the Vance Center organized a video conference on providing legal assistance to micro-enterprise. The objective conference was to exchange information on U.S. experiences in providing pro bono legal assistance to micro entrepreneurs, and to assist Fundación Pro Bono in motivating Chilean firms and NGOs to cooperate and develop joint programs to provide pro bono legal services to Chilean micro-entrepreneurs.

Held on July 21, 2004, the video conference was attended by nine participants in New York, including representatives from two major law firms, the New York City Bar, and two legal aid organizations, as well as 19 participants in Santiago, including representatives from five law firms and five NGOs.

The discussion focused on the practical operation of programs providing pro bono legal assistance to micro-entrepreneurs within a U.S. firm, identification of public interest work focusing on systemic challenges to legal services delivery; and the role of bar associations to facilitate collaboration between the different actors in the legal profession involved in the pro bono chain.

The video conference resulted in new partnerships between Chilean law firms and micro-enterprise NGOs, including the law firm of Philippi, Yrarrázaval, Pulido & Brunner and Grandes Emprendedores and the law firm of Claro & Cía and Acción Emprendedora, and in a renewed commitment to promote legislative reforms that will make it easier for small businesses to join the formal economy.

The Fundación also unveiled a new cooperative alliance between Fundación and the Comisión Pro Bono del Colegio de Abogados de Chile. The partnership will involve the Chilean Bar Association in acting as a matchmaker between its member lawyers and the clients being served by community-based organizations.

### **Chilean and Argentine Public Interest Advocates Study Pro Bono & Legal Aid Models at Organizations in New York**

May 2004

In May 2004, the Vance Center organized a series of site visits and internships for public interest legal advocates in Argentina and New York.

In March, the Vance Center organized a week of site visits at eight New York City organizations for a staff member from Fundación Pro Bono in Santiago, Chile who is working to establish a legal assistance program for survivors of domestic violence. These visits were also designed to impart information on designing pro bono referral programs.

The Vance Center also arranged a three-day internship at several legal aid organizations in New York for the Director of ACIJ, an Argentine social justice organization. The Vance Center is also working with ACIJ on the use popular education methods to teach community members about their rights and encourage them to become involved in ACIJ's work.

In May, as an extension of the teleconference series coordinated with Fundación Pro Bono in Chile, the pro bono coordinator from the Chilean firm Albagli, Zaliasnik & Cía spent two days visiting several New York law firms and legal aid organizations to examine first-hand how firms in New York structure and operate their pro bono programs. The Vance Center collaborated with the Association's Pro Bono Committee to arrange the program. Participating firms and organizations included: Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft; Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton; Fish & Neave; Interest on Lawyer Account Fund (IOLA); Simpson Thacher & Bartlett; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; and Stroock & Stroock & Lavan.

### **New York City and Argentine Law Firms and Non-Profits Discuss Strategies for Integrating Micro-entrepreneurs into the Formal Economy**

April 2004

A videoconference organized by the Vance Center and the Comisión Pro Bono del Colegio de Abogados de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires brought together representatives of the New York City Bar, law firms, and legal aid organizations in New York with counterparts in Buenos Aires to develop legal reform strategies that would remove disincentives to small businesses joining the formal economy.

Participating New York institutions included: ACCIÓN NY; City Bar Justice Center's NELP program; Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton; Legal Aid Society Volunteer Division, Community Development Project; and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

### **Teleconference Project Pairs New York Law Firms with Firms in Buenos Aires to Support the Development of Pro Bono in Argentina**

The Vance Center collaborated with the Comisión Pro Bono del Colegio de Abogados de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires to implement a teleconference project that pairs law firms in New York City with law firms in Buenos Aires to assist in the development and institutionalization of pro bono programs inside the Argentine firms.

## **2002**

### **Teleconference series pairs US and Chilean firms to promote the development of pro bono**

Following the second regional conference on access to justice and pro bono in Santiago, Chile in 2002, the Vance Center, in collaboration with Fundación Pro Bono, organized a teleconference series pairing law firms in New York City with law firms in Santiago to assist in the development and institutionalization of pro bono programs inside the Chilean firms.

The first round of teleconferences brought together lawyers from Simpson Thacher & Bartlett; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; and Torys in New York and Cariola, Diez, Pérez-Cotapos & Cía Ltda.; Morales, Noguera, Valdivieso & Besa Ltda.; and Prieto & Cía in Chile.

A second round of teleconferences partnered representatives from Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton; Davis Polk & Wardwell; Fish & Neave; and Sullivan & Cromwell in New York and Albagli, Zaliasnik & Cía; Carey & Cía; Ferrada Nehme; and Philippi, Yrarrázaval, Pulido & Brunner in Chile.