

## Pro Bono Declaration launched

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The Pro Bono Declaration for the Americas, the hemispheric initiative to support and promote the practice pro bono, was launched in New York this week.

Over three hundred law firms, bar associations, law schools, prominent private bar lawyers, NGOs and others have signed the Declaration so far. By doing so, they have signed up both to the values of pro bono, and - for those in law firms or departments - to a specific commitment of 20 pro bono hours per lawyer per year.

Paula Samper Salazar of [Gómez-Pinzón Abogados](#) in Colombia is one of the drafters of the Declaration. "Those law firms that have signed the Declaration in Colombia have seen it as a real commitment," she says. Over 20 of the country's top law firms have signed up.

This event, the North American launch, was held at the Council of the Americas in New York on 22 January. The full Latin American launch will be held in Mexico at the end of February, to coincide with the IBA conference.

**LATINLAWYER** will publish a full list of signatories on our website next month.

"That so many people and organizations have signed up is a tremendous achievement," says Eric Ordway of Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP. "This is a sign of a deep change in the practice of pro bono in Latin America."

The 'Pro Bono Declaration for the Americas' initiative is coordinated by the Cyrus Vance Center of the New York City Bar. It promotes the concept of a lawyer's social responsibility to help the poor and marginalized and invites legal professions throughout the Americas to promote pro bono work as a way for lawyers to meet their social responsibility.

For more information on the Declaration - or to sign up before the full launch in Mexico - visit the Cyrus Vance website [here](#).