

From: Melody Wirz [mailto:UXXfYggfYXUWfYX]`
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 6:04 PM
To: ai_a_implementation
Subject: Section 32 - Pro Bono Program

Dear Sirs:

As a patent lawyer, I support the establishment of a pro bono program. I understand that a pilot program was successful, and I look forward to participating in a more widespread version.

My comment relates to encouraging participation of patent practitioners who might otherwise be inclined to avoid pro bono inventors and small businesses for fear of creating a conflict with a paying client, or for fear of working in a technology in which they are not competent.

I personally feel that it might be useful to screen the pro bono clients for the subject matter of their inventions. One way to do this would be to assign inventions to a class or a class/subclass for the purpose of matching with patent practitioner. Practitioners could then "opt out" of classes in which they are either uncomfortable providing advice, or which might create a conflict with other clients. Thus, a lawyer who routinely works for a medical device client and a telecommunications client might "opt out" of medical devices and telecommunications technologies (because of potential technology conflicts), and pharmaceutical technologies (because he does not consider himself competent in the field). That lawyer might then be assigned to pro bono clients with inventions relating to automotive technology, sporting goods, home appliances, or any of a number of other areas in which he would be comfortable providing his services without fear of conflict.

Thank you for considering my input.

Regards,
Melody Wirz