

Kyrgyz Pro Bono Declaration

dated 24th of June, 2015

We, the undersigned practicing lawyers in the Kyrgyz Republic, declare commitment to the idea of our share of responsibility for the public good and protecting human rights.

Through this Declaration, we support the idea of strengthening the society based on the rule of law, where the legal practitioners has particular role in improving access to justice. In this connection, we set a goal to develop own standards of pro bono practice, to gain experience and to disseminate this practice.

For these purposes, we seek to provide pro bono legal services to low-income, vulnerable and marginalized persons and communities or organizations supporting them, with the same level of quality equal to commercial clients, without charging fees or expectation of fees.

In this regard we consider the pro bono services as part of a unified system of legal aid in the Kyrgyz Republic, and stay determined that it's unwarrantable of using pro bono practice to replace or reduce the volume of state guaranteed legal aid.

By signing this Declaration, we assure our respect for the law of the Kyrgyz Republic and the norms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, where all human being are equal in rights and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. Every person in the Kyrgyz Republic shall be entitled to legal aid when it may be required.

We do realize that in the Kyrgyz Republic not all practicing lawyers can afford and take time for pro bono work. Nevertheless, we believe that there is good potential for the development of pro bono practice in our country and are willing to contribute to its development as far as we are able.