



1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036-5425 USA
tel +1 202.293.4103
fax +1 202.293.4701
www.acc.com

March 8, 2013

Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride
Supreme Court of Illinois
1819 Fourth Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201

Re: Support by Association of Corporate Counsel to amend Illinois Rules 716(g) and 756(j) on Admission & Discipline of Attorneys to permit pro bono work by authorized in-house counsel

Dear Chief Justice Kilbride:

Illinois has a historic opportunity to recognize more fully the sophistication, the experience, and the capacity that the state's authorized in-house lawyers have to help the enormous number of Illinois residents who need legal services but cannot afford to pay. We understand that, to address this need, the Illinois Supreme Court is considering a proposal from the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice to amend Illinois Rules 716(g) and 756(j) on Admission & Discipline of Attorneys. On behalf of the Association of Corporate Counsel, our Chicago Chapter, and over 60 chief legal officers in Illinois, we are writing to strongly support the proposal. If Illinois adopts it, restrictions that hamper those counsel from engaging in pro bono will be removed, encouraging many more in-house lawyers to volunteer for pro bono work. Indeed, the proposal's strength would instantly establish Illinois as a national leader in the effort to provide increased legal assistance to those who need it.

ACC is a global bar association that promotes the common professional and business interests of in-house counsel, with over 30,000 members employed by over 10,000 organizations in more than 75 countries. For years, ACC has advocated across the country to remove obstacles that make it difficult for many in-house lawyers to donate their legal expertise to people who need help. ACC's Chicago Chapter includes over 1,800 members representing leading local, national, and international companies in and around Chicago and throughout the state. The chapter offers continuing legal education classes, and also supports advocacy, pro bono, and diversity initiatives. The Chicago Chapter supports this effort to allow all of the state's authorized house counsel to offer pro bono legal services free from necessary restrictions.

And there's no question that people need more pro bono help, both in Illinois and across the country. According to the Legal Services Corporation, fewer than "one in five low-income persons get the legal assistance they need" from pro bono or legal aid lawyers. *Legal Services Corporation, Documenting the Justice Gap In America: The Current Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans, An Updated Report of the Legal*

Services Corporation (2009).¹ See also *American Bar Association, Legal Needs and Civil Justice, A Survey of Americans* (1994) (stating that, for low-income households, the justice system does not address nearly three quarters of situations in which courts might intervene).² A deep need for additional legal assistance exists in Illinois as well. To give just a hint of the demand, web sites that Illinois Legal Aid has set up have received over 1.5 million hits since 2010.³

In-house legal departments are already making strong contributions toward meeting this need for legal assistance. Hundreds of in-house legal departments have formalized efforts to provide pro bono legal services. According to Corporate Pro Bono, a partnership of the Pro Bono Institute and ACC, many of the Fortune 500 companies and a majority of Fortune 100 companies have set up or are moving to set up formal pro bono programs. They want to do more, but state practice rules often stand in their way.

The proposal to amend Rules 716(g) and 756(j) on Admission & Discipline of Attorneys would allow Illinois' in-house legal departments to provide much-needed help by removing unnecessary restrictions that limit authorized house counsel's ability to offer pro bono legal services. This would clear the way for more lawyers to assist more clients who need their help.

Illinois authorized house counsel are well-qualified, ethical lawyers. That's why their employers hire them, and why Illinois already allows them to serve their employers under Rule 716(g). The pending amendments recognize that all of Illinois' authorized house counsel can serve pro bono clients with the same high legal standards that they already serve their employers.

We also note that the proposal would vault Illinois into a position of national leadership on this issue. It would remove requirements that unnecessarily limit the types of pro bono work that house counsel can engage in. And it would not impose any mandates that require house counsel to work only under the authority or supervision of other Illinois lawyers or organizations. Those restrictions often harm the ability of house counsel to efficiently and effectively provide pro bono service to the array of clients that need assistance.

Therefore, ACC and our Chicago Chapter urge the Illinois Supreme Court to adopt the proposal. It would continue the spirit of a resolution passed last summer by the Conference of Chief Justices, to expand pro bono legal services. That resolution supports allowing "non-locally licensed in-house counsel who are permitted to work for their employer to also provide pro bono legal services." Conf. of Chief Justices, Resol. 11 (passed July 25, 2012).⁴

¹ Available at <http://tinyurl.com/ahaoc5v>.

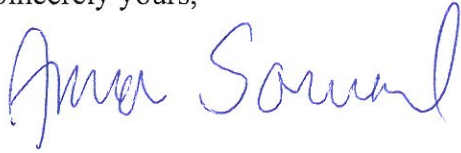
² Available at <http://tinyurl.com/b6hbfs1>.

³ See <http://tinyurl.com/bb88llr>.

⁴ Available at <http://tinyurl.com/arwjkk7>.

In short, the proposal recognizes that lawyers who help their corporations and organizations with difficult problems can also help people in legal distress who cannot pay. By adopting these small changes to Illinois' rules, the Illinois Supreme Court can help countless people in need, and also lead other states toward the same important goal.

Sincerely yours,



Amar D. Sarwal
Vice President and Chief Legal Strategist
sarwal@acc.com

Evan P. Schultz
Senior Counsel and Director of
Advocacy

Thomas Sabatino
Chair, Board of Directors

David G. Susler
Chicago Chapter President

Ronald E. Potempa
Chicago Chapter Advocacy Liaison

Association of Corporate Counsel

Carolyn Kurtz
General Counsel & Vice President
Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care

Nancy J. Laben
General Counsel
AECOM

Susan L. Lees
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Allstate Insurance Company

Joshua Prober
General Counsel
American Osteopathic Association

Isham R. Jones, III
General Counsel
American Veterinary Medical Association

Paul Liebenson
General Counsel
ArcelorMittal USA LLC

Sheldon R. Stein
Vice President, Senior Counsel
Ariel Investments, LLC

Roger G. Wilson
Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

Kristin Coleman
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
Brunswick Corporation

Larisa Lacis
General Counsel
BTG Systems, Inc.

Brent Moody
EVP/Chief Admin and Legal Officer
Camping World

James B. Buda
Executive Vice President
Caterpillar Inc.

Gregory M. Zinkl
Director of Intellectual Property and Corporate Attorney
Chromatin, Inc.

Mitchell Rose
General Counsel & Director of Compliance
CIC Plus

Kathryn McNamara Corley
EVP, General Counsel and Secretary
Discover Financial Services

Matt Myren
SVP, General Counsel and Secretary
Enesco, LLC

George A. Vinyard
Vice President & General counsel
ExteNet Systems, Inc.

Janna Lewis
General Counsel
Fay Financial

Eryn Brasovan
General Counsel
FIRST Insurance Funding Corp.

Albert G. Grigonis
Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Fuel Tech, Inc.

Marguerite M. Elias
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Gogo Inc.

Benjamin Ghes
General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer
Human Resources Development Institute, Inc.

Bruce Jay Baker
Executive Vice President & General Counsel
Illinois Bankers Association

Jeremiah Fitzgerald
General Counsel
Insight Investments, LLC

Frith C. Crandall
General Counsel
InterPark

Janice L. Block
EVP & General Counsel
Kaplan Inc.

Justin Mallot
General Counsel
KeHE Distributors, LLC

Robert E. Arroyo
General Counsel
Klein Tools, Inc.

Matthew Thomas Dattilo
General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
MAC One Midway, LLC

Dennis B. Black
General Counsel
Mesirow Financial

Douglas Warren Colber
Vice President and General Counsel
Intel Group Ltd.

Robert J. Zeitler
Vice President & General Counsel
Molex Incorporated

Mary E. Doohan
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
Morton Salt, Inc

Tom Ludwig
General Counsel
National Loan Exchange, Inc.

David Anderson
General Counsel
Northstar Aerospace, Inc.

Earl J. Barnes, II
Vice President and General Counsel
Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Matthew R. Broad
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer
OfficeMax Incorporated

Thurston Bailey
Legal Counsel
Optiver US LLC

James F. Rogers
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Orbitz Worldwide

Donna B. Coaxum
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
OSI Group LLC

Randi Cigelnik
General Counsel
PCI

Matthew R. Dornauer
General Counsel
Phusion Projects, LLC

Bruce L. Boruszak
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Pine Tree Commercial Realty, LLC

Joseph Podwika
Sr. VP, General Counsel & Secretary
PotashCorp

Edgar B. Reilly
Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel
Quantum Foods, LLC

Deborah Edwards
General Counsel
Residco

Max Eisenberg
General Counsel
Sandbox Industries

Jacquelyne Belcastro
General Counsel
Sapa Extrusions North America

Sidney G. Wigfall
Managing Corporate Counsel
SC Advisors Group, LLC

Thomas E. Fraser
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
SCI Marketing, Inc.

Michael E. Silverman
Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer & Specialized Operations
SmithBucklin Corporation

Pedro DeJesus
Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Tampico Beverages, Inc.

Charles A. Demirjian
General Counsel
T/CCI Manufacturing, L.L.C.

Jason Pfetcher
General Counsel
ThoughtWorks, Inc.

Andra K. Heller
General Counsel
Truven Health Analytics

Patrick B. Loftus
Senior Vice President Law & Administration
TTX Company

Brett J. Hart
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
United Continental Holdings

Paul W. Doerscheln
General Counsel
United Service Companies, Inc.

Kristin Lingren
General Counsel
VSA Partners, Inc.

Thomas Sabatino
Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Walgreen Co.

Dennis Kerrigan
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Zurich North America