

APPENDIX

Corporate Counsel and In-House Departments

- Developed by representatives at Symantec, HP, and Apple in 2009, the Bay Area Corporate Pro Bono Co-Op (“the Co-op”) assists corporate legal departments in doing pro bono work. The Co-op helps get employees engaged, facilitates training, and provides a web-based attorney sign-up system. To get involved, a corporate legal department simply contacts the Co-op coordinators (two volunteer firm attorneys) to develop a pro bono program tailored to the department’s needs. The Co-op then provides training, helps with logistics, and provides continuing support to the volunteers. After attending a training session, volunteers can register for pro se advice clinics run by Bay Area legal services providers using an online reservation system. Since its establishment, the Co-op has gained additional members, including Cisco, Adobe, SAP, Google and NetApp, and has partnered with three local legal services agencies to provide staffing for clinics and later mentoring on cases.
- In Richmond, Virginia, a pro bono summit held under the auspices of Virginia’s Chief Justice led to a task force involving representatives from Capitol One, the state and local bar associations, major law firms, and legal services providers. The task force inspired the development of Justice Server, an online case management system that will allow lawyers in private practice to work with pro bono client files loaded directly

to their desktops by legal aid organizations in Virginia. Lawyers will log into a web-based portal to select cases and, once they have made their selection, securely obtain the client files from the referring organization. Beta testing of the prototype is currently underway at ten private law firms in Virginia and the project has set milestones to measure its success, including a goal of making 1,500 case referrals in its first year and reducing the time it takes to place a case with pro bono attorneys by 35%. Justice Server’s development and implementation costs were raised through private and public sources, with minimal financial impact on legal services budgets. Justice Server will be rolled out throughout Virginia by 2013 and can be adopted by other states.

- In New Jersey, Merck Corporation has partnered with a major law firm to assist low-income persons filing for bankruptcy. Working with the law firm’s bankruptcy department, they have committed to take on cases at a monthly session run by a local legal services provider which does intake and screens the cases. Merck relies on the firm for substantive advice for more complex matters and coordinates regularly regarding training, status reports, and evaluation design. Because the quality of intake and screening by the legal services provider is such a critical component for both the firm and Merck, Merck has committed close to \$100,000 over two years to the provider to provide adequate staffing to maintain the program.