Date: March 3, 2015

Subject: Voluntary Pro bono Reporting for Montana Bar Applicants

To: Jamie Iguchi, Committee Chair, Law School Partnerships

From: Erin Farris-Olsen, Equal Justice Coordinator, State Bar of Montana

Cc: Patricia Fain, Angie Wagenhals, Amy Sings in the Timber, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson,

Chris Manos, Marie Connolly

On December 16, 2014, the Montana Supreme Court ordered "Statewide Pro Bono Coordinator and the State Bar of Montana shall develop a process to give all applicants for the bar examination the opportunity to submit voluntarily a statement of any pro bono law-related activities they have performed as of the date of their application." Order AF 11-0765.

As a result of this direction, the State Bar of Montana and Office of the Court Administrator met numerous times to discuss the process. These meetings were also attended in whole or in part by representatives from Montana Legal Services Association, the State Law Library, and the Law School Partnerships Committee. Additional prospective stakeholders were invited.

The result of our meetings is a process that can be defined through the following materials (attached):

- 1. <u>Process Overview</u>. The flow chart attached to this memo demonstrates the flow of information, including information security, and access. The roles of the Office of the Court Administrator and State Bar of Montana are defined within the process.
- 2. The Montana Supreme Court Pro Bono Portal (www.probono.mt.gov). The Pro Bono Portal has been developed by the Office of the Court Administrator Pro Bono Coordinator as the primary repository for attorney training and pro bono opportunities.
- 3. <u>Reporting FAQs</u>. This document is designed to be an internal as well as public document for common questions regarding the pro bono reporting process for applicants.
- 4. <u>Voluntary Law-Related Pro Bono Activity Statement</u>. This is the final form that will be included in the hard copy application to the State Bar of Montana.

Outstanding issues:

 The working group contemplates that the Commission will consider what role, if any, it will play in determining distribution of the information collected through this process to any entity outside the State Bar of Montana or the Office of the Court Administrator. • The Access to Justice Commission may consider its role in setting parameters for the Pro Bono Portal content. Parameters may include methods for determining what training or pro bono opportunities are most needed, requesting pro bono opportunities or training, and submitting pro bono and training opportunities.

Thank you for your leadership in getting this process going. We look forward to working with the Committee and defining a process that will work and accomplish the intended goals in time for the February 2016 bar exam applicants.

Thank you,

Erin Farris-Olsen

Equal Justice Coordinator Counsel for Admissions State Bar of Montana (406) 447-2201 erin@montanabar.org

Admissions Pro Bono Reporting Flow of Information

Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting Form submitted in hard copy to SBM

applicants...

For successful

- Non ID information in survey monkey
- Contact information compiled in excel spreadsheet

- (1) Report to MT Supreme Court ATJC
- Non ID information
- Report Compiled by OCA
- (2) List of Interested Lawyers
- a. PB training follow up
- b. PB Opportunities follow up.

Voluntary Reporting Statement Submission

Voluntary Law-Related Pro Bono Activity Statement submitted in hard copy to the State bar of Montana (SBM) admissions department. The Statement will be added to the applicant's admissions folder and treated as "confidential information." If the applicant is unsuccessful at becoming a member of the Bar, the form will remain in the folder and follow the admissions file in compliance with SBM document retention guidelines. For applicants admitted after the first year they applied, the SBM may send an updated reporting form or utilize the form already submitted.

Successful Applicants

identifying information will be inputted into the SBM Your Membership database. SBM will share identifying and non-identifying survey results with OCA in If successful, SBM staff will pull the hard copy form from the admitted applicant's file. Non identifying information will be put into survey monkey and whatever format appropriate.

Report to Montana Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission

OCA will compile non identifying pro bono reporting information and submit at least an annual report to the Montana Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission.

Pro Bono training follow up for interested lawyers

Attorneys who indicated an interest in training will be provided a monthly digest of CLE opportunities that are likely to contribute helpful information for attorneys interested in pro bono. OCA will compile training opportunities monthly and SBM will distribute through Your Membership.

Pro Bono opportunities for interested lawyers

visible only to the member or a website administrator. OCA will maintain probono.mt.gov content at the direction of the Montana Supreme Court Access to Attorneys who indicated an interest in pro bono, training, or mentorship opportunities will be provided an invite to view the pro bono opportunities listed on http://probono.mt.gov. The attorney's request for additional opportunities will be included on the attorney member profile on Your Membership and Justice Commission.

Additional information requests

The Montana Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission will approve legal service providers to receive attorney contact information.

MONTANA BAR ADMISSION VOLUNTARY LAW-RELATED PRO BONO ACTIVITY STATEMENT

Information and Instructions

Montana places a high value on <u>Rule 6.1</u> of the Montana Rules of Professional Conduct which states in part, "Every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay." This professional obligation takes effect upon your admission to the Bar. In order to fully prepare for the practice of law, aspiring lawyers are encouraged to gain volunteer experience.

The provision of pre-admission pro bono services is <u>not a condition</u> to become licensed for law practice in Montana. Montana's Character & Fitness Commission <u>will not consider</u> the Voluntary Law-Related Pro Bono Activity Statement during the certification process. The Voluntary Law-Related Pro Bono Activity Statement is designed to provide an opportunity for applicants to voluntarily disclose pro bono activities and to express specific interests or training needs in the provision of post-admission *pro bono publico* services. Once admitted to practice law in Montana, you will be asked on an annual basis to complete a similar reporting form.

Non-identifying information submitted in this form may be used by the State Bar of Montana and Montana Supreme Court to evaluate pro bono activities generally and to develop pro bono attorney resources.

The hours reported for law related pro bono activity should meet the goals of Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Thus, the substantial majority of law-related services should be provided without fee or expectation of fee to:

- (1) persons of limited means; or
- (2) charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters which are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means.

Additional law-related services may be provided through:

- (1) delivery of law-related services to individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights, or charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, where the payment of standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would be otherwise inappropriate; or
- (2) participation in activities for improving the law, the legal system or legal profession.

For student bar applicants not yet licensed to practice law, "law-related services" include:

- (a) Direct legal services under supervision of a licensed attorney or legal services provider;
- (b) Similar volunteer law-related services that do not constitute the practice of law, provided that such services are designed primarily to address the legal needs of persons of limited means. Examples of qualifying services include, but are not limited to, services as a volunteer for a self-help legal clinic, domestic violence program, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, or providing community legal education; or
- (c) Services provided to and under the direct supervision of a court-based program designed to facilitate the resolution of cases involving self-represented litigants of limited means.

MONTANA VOLUNTARY LAW-RELATED PRO BONO ACTIVITY STATEMENT

□ I am a law student applicant □ I am an attorney applicant	
ATTORNEY LAW-RELATED PRO BONO HOURS I am an attorney applicant and, within the last twelve months preceding my application, I	have provided legal
assistance <u>without expectation of fee</u> to the following:	Estimated Number of Hours
People of limited means	
Charitable organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Religious organizations(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Community organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Civic organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Governmental organizations(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Educational organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means Organizations seeking to secure or protect civil or public rights and/or liberties	
organizations seeking to seedire or protect eith or public rights and/or liberties	
I am an attorney applicant and, within the last twelve months preceding my application, I have provided legal assistance at a <u>substantially reduced fee</u> to the following:	
	Estimated Number of Hours
People of limited means	
Charitable organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Religious organizations(s) designed to assist people with limited means Community organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Civic organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Governmental organizations(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Educational organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Organizations seeking to secure or protect civil or public rights and/or liberties	
I am an attorney applicant and, within the last twelve months preceding my application, I have provided free or substantially reduced fee legal services to charitable,	
religious, civic, community, governmental or educational organizations in furtherance	Estimated Number of Hours
of their organizational purposes, where payment of fees would greatly deplete their	
economic resources.	
I am an attorney applicant and, in addition to any hours above, within the last twelve	Estimated Number of Hours
months preceding my application, I also provided hours participating in volunteer activities for improving the law, legal system or legal profession.	
To improving the law, regar system of regar profession.	
LAW STUDENT LAW-RELATED PRO BONO HOURS	
I am a law student applicant and, within the last three years preceding my application, I h	ave provided legal
assistance under the direct supervision of an attorney or through a clinical program to:	
Decade of limited magne	Estimated Number of Hours
People of limited means Charitable organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Religious organizations(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Community organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Civic organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Governmental organizations(s) designed to assist people with limited means	
Educational organization(s) designed to assist people with limited means	Estimated Number of Heavy
☐ I am a law student applicant and, within the last three years preceding my application,	Estimated Number of Hours

I have provided law-related services that do not constitute the practice of law but ar designed primarily to address the legal needs of persons of limited means.	re
□ I am a law student applicant and, within the last three years preceding my application I have provided services to and under the direct supervision of a court-based program designed to facilitate the resolution of cases involving self-represented litigated of limited means.	Estimated Number of Hours
□ I am law student applicant and, in addition to any hours above, within the last thre years preceding my application, I have also provided hours participating in volunteer activities for improving the law, legal system or legal profession.	e Estimated Number of Hours
Consent to Release Information	
If admitted to the Montana Bar, do you wish to receive information about training an mark appropriate responses.	d pro bono opportunities? Please
I would like to receive pro bono <u>training</u> information and I authorize the State Bar of I Court or a legal services provider approved by the Montana Access to Justice Commis information. □ Yes □ No	
I would like to receive information about pro bono <u>opportunities</u> and I authorize the Supreme Court or a legal services provider approved by the Montana Access to Justic contact information. Pes No	
What is your area of pro bono interest(s)?	
What additional training would you like to see offered specific to your future pro bon	o work?
Are you interested in learning about any available pro bono mentorship resources?	□Yes □No
Are there resources or specific law practice support that would assist you in providing future? (Use reverse for additional comments):	
Name:	
Address:	
City: State:	Zip Code:
□ I prefer to receive any requested information via email. Email address:	
Signature: Date:	

Guide to Montana Bar Admissions

The following information is a brief summary of the process for admission to the State Bar of Montana and any variation in the information will defer to the Rules of the Board of Bar Examiners, Rules of Admission and the Rules of the Character & Fitness Commission.

The Commission on Character and Fitness and the Board of Bar Examiners were created by the Supreme Court to oversee admission of new attorneys to the State Bar of Montana. The Bar Admissions Administrator works for both of these groups and is administratively connected to the State Bar of Montana. The information below is designed to help you complete the application for admission to the State Bar of Montana. Questions should be directed to Marie Connolly, the Bar Admissions Administrator, by phone at (406) 447-2204 or email to mconnolly@montanabar.org.

THE CHARACTER AND FITNESS COMMISSION

The Montana Rules of Admission require that you are certified by Montana's Character & Fitness Commission before you can sit for the bar exam or be admitted to the Montana Bar. The NCBE performs a background investigation on behalf of the Commission, but does not determine certification for admission to the Montana Bar. The Commission will not certify you for admission until receipt of the NCBE investigative summary, which takes at least 90 days after submission of your application. Therefore, it is critical you respond to requests for information from both the Bar Admissions Administrator and the NCBE as quickly as possible as failure to do so will delay your certification. Incomplete applications will not be considered and complete applications do not assume certification.

"Certification" as used in the Rules of the Character & Fitness Commission refers to permission to sit for the Montana bar examination and be admitted to the practice of law in Montana. Your certification to sit for the exam or be admitted by transferred UBE score will be determined by the Commission on Character and Fitness after a thorough review of your application and findings of the Commission's investigation. You have an ongoing responsibility to **keep your application current.** This includes, but is not limited to, any changes to the application previously submitted, such as changes in employment, address, and most notably, any matter relating to character & fitness. Certification letters are typically mailed by hard copy thirty days prior to the examination. **No applicant may sit for the exam or be admitted to the State Bar of Montana until they have received certification from the Character & Fitness Commission. Failure to provide a complete application to the Montana Bar and to the NCBE in a timely manner may delay or prevent certification.** Certification may be delayed or revoked by the Commission at any time prior to admission.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- All applications must be completed using the National Conference of Bar Examiner's Character & Fitness Application. There is no separate application for Montana.
- Follow the instructions on the Application Checklist carefully. Two original applications must be mailed by the application deadline with supporting documents and fees.
- Applications must be postmarked by March 15 for the July exam and October 1 for the February exam. You are
 welcome to send your supporting documents ahead of your application and the materials will be held until your
 application is received. Notify Marie if you cannot obtain all supporting documents in time to send them with the
 application; however, you will not be certified to sit for the exam unless your file is complete, so start requesting
 your documentation as early as possible.
- Once your application has been reviewed, you will be contacted (usually by e-mail) to advise whether your file is complete or if documents are missing. You will also be provided with a memo that includes the exam schedule, examinee instructions, laptop and exam payment deadlines, etc.
- Become familiar with the information provided on the Admissions link on the State Bar's website (www.montanabar.org). It is updated regularly and has links to the rules, forms and payment of fees.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

A number of documents are required to be submitted with your application. The Application Checklist identifies which of these documents need to be supplied to the NCBE with your application and which need to be provided to the State Bar. Some documents may take time to acquire, so request them early; documents may arrive separately if mailed from a third-party. Incomplete applications will delay certification from the Character & Fitness Commission and may require the applicant to defer to the next scheduled admissions cycle.

INVESTIGATION PROCESS:

- 1) The initial review is done by the Bar Admissions Administrator (BAA). If there are concerns, the file may be reviewed by Bar counsel and/or referred to a subcommittee of the Character & Fitness Commission (CAF).
- 2) The subcommittee reviews all information provided by the applicant, the NCBE and any other source it deems necessary.
- 3) The subcommittee then advises the BAA of their decision to either certify the applicant unconditionally or conditionally or to deny the applicant.
- 4) A conditional admittee is granted admission under the terms of a stipulated agreement to meet certain requirements. The term of the conditional admission is typically 3 years, but can be extended or terminated by the Commission.
- 5) If an applicant is denied by the subcommittee, the applicant has an opportunity to provide an answer. The subcommittee again decides whether to certify the applicant unconditionally or conditionally or to deny the applicant.
- 6) If the subcommittee again recommends a denial, the file is reviewed by the remaining members of the Commission, who decide whether to certify the applicant unconditionally, conditionally or to deny the applicant.
- 7) If the remaining members decide to deny certification, the applicant may request a hearing before the full Commission.
- 8) This is a simplified explanation of the process outlined in the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on Character and Fitness, which are the definitive resource for all matters involving certification for admission.

THE BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS

THE UBE/MLS SCHEDULE:

The Montana Bar exam is always held the last Tuesday and Wednesday of February and July.

Tuesday - the Multistate Essay in the morning and the Multistate Performance Test in the afternoon.

- o The MEE is a 3-hour exam with 6 questions.
- o The MPT is a 3-hour exam with 2 questions.

Wednesday - the MBE consisting of 200 multiple-choice questions.

The Montana Law Seminar is held the day after the administration of the Montana bar exam.

Thursday – the Montana Law Seminar

UBE & MLS FEES

All certified applicants must have their examination and Montana Law Seminar fees paid in full by the deadlines provided by the Bar Admissions Administrator. These fees are for administration of the UBE and MLS **and are separate from and in addition to the application fees** you paid with your original application. Fees can be paid online, by check or by calling the Bar Admissions Administrator at (406) 447-2204 with credit card information.

- Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) \$300
- Montana Law Seminar (MLS) \$150

SCORE TRANSFERS

It is the APPLICANT'S SOLE RESPONSIBILITY to have previous examination scores certified to the Bar Admissions Administrator.

UBE Score: A UBE score is a requirement for admission to the State Bar of Montana. Applicants who have earned a UBE score and are seeking to transfer the score to Montana must request a UBE score transfer from the NCBE to Montana. More information about the UBE and a link to request transcript services is available on the NCBE website.

MPRE Score: To qualify for admission, an applicant must obtain a MPRE scaled score of 80 or higher from any testing site within three years prior to taking the Montana Bar Examination or no later than nine months after notification of successful completion of the Montana Bar Examination. For UBE transfer applicants, a MPRE score earned within 3 years of the date of the exam in which the UBE score was earned will qualify for admission. Montana does not administer the MPRE, but information about MPRE test dates, deadlines, preparation and study materials are available on the NCBE website.

DEFERRALS & NO SHOWS

Deferral: If you are unable to sit for the examination, **prior to the exam** you are required to submit a written addendum to your application requesting a deferral. After three deferrals, an applicant must submit a new application and pay the application-filing fee. **Dismissal:** If an applicant fails to appear for examination without first completing an Addendum/Deferral form, the application will be dismissed and the applicant will be required to file a new application with the application fee. Find the form and pay the fee online.

LAPTOP OR HANDWRITE?

All essay answers (the MEE and MPT) may be handwritten in blue books that we provide or by using a laptop preregistered with ExamSoft's SofTest? software. There is a separate fee payable to ExamSoft for using your laptop, but it is completely voluntary and any examinee may choose to handwrite their exam rather than use a laptop. A laptop examinee may choose to handwrite once the exam begins, but a hand-writer cannot decide to use a laptop after laptop registration has closed. ALL examinees who utilize the laptop option should be prepared to hand write in case of power outages or laptop problems.

UNIFORM BAR EXAMINATION – EXAM CONTENT

The Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) consists of three separate exam components administered together in a single exam administration; six MEE questions, two MPT items, and the MBE. All three exams are developed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) and are uniformly administered, graded, and scored by user jurisdictions resulting in a portable score. The NCBE provides excellent information, study aids and preparation information regarding each of these exams.

The Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) is developed as a six-question essay test to be administered in one three-hour test session. The purpose of the MEE is to test the examinee's ability to (1) identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation; (2) separate material which is relevant from that which is not; (3) present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well-organized composition; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation. The particular areas covered on the MEE vary from exam to exam, and valuable MEE information and preparation material are available on the NCBE website.

<u>The Multistate Performance Test (MPT)</u> is a three-hour examination, with two 90-minute skills questions covering legal analysis, fact analysis, problem solving, resolution of ethical dilemmas, organization and management of a lawyering task, and communication. The MPT is designed to test an examinee's ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. Each test evaluates an examinee's ability to complete a task that a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish. More information and study aides for the MPT can be found on the NCBE's website.

The Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) is a 200-question multiple-choice test that is administered in two three-hour test sessions. The purpose of the MBE is to assess the extent to which an examinee can apply fundamental legal principles and legal reasoning to analyze given fact patterns. The exam is divided into morning and afternoon testing sessions of three hours each, with 100 questions in each session. The questions on the MBE are distributed between the following topics: constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and procedure, evidence, real property and torts. Subject matter outlines and more information on the MBE can be found on the NCBE's website.

MONTANA LAW SEMINAR

All applicants, whether by transferred UBE score or by examination, must register and attend the **Montana Law Seminar** (MLS), which is offered the Thursday following the February and July bar exam. The Montana Law Seminar is a Supreme Court-required course that will focus on the structure of the legal system in Montana, the unique aspects of Montana law and the accepted mores and culture of practicing law in Montana. The Seminar is directed specifically to those seeking admission to the Bar, and only those who are applying for admission to the State Bar of Montana are eligible to attend. The MLS is not a CLE program, nor will CLE credits be awarded. An applicant may delay attendance at the MLS, but may not be admitted to the Montana Bar until attendance at the Seminar has been confirmed. Dress is casual. **Attendance at the MLS is a prerequisite to admission.**

GRADING & SCORING

The MEE and MPT answers will be graded on a scale of zero to six, with six being the highest qualifying score and zero being the lowest possible score. The scores from each segment of the exam will be converted to the 400-point UBE scale and combined with the MBE scaled scores. The MEE and MPT scores are scaled to the MBE, with the MBE weighted 50%, the MEE 30%, and the MPT 20%. The lowest passing combined score for Montana is 270. NOTE: The application and investigation process is confidential and the Board of Bar Examiners does not know the identities of applicants until after pass/fail decisions are final.

RESULTS

Test Results will be sent by US Mail within 8 weeks to the last known address we have on file for you. Those who pass the exam will receive instructions for swearing-in and admission. If you do not pass the exam, you need not reapply but will receive copies of your MEE and MPT exams and your MBE score along with instructions for retaking the next scheduled exam.

<u>FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</u> The Rules of the Montana Board of Bar Examiners, Character & Fitness Commission Rules and the Rules of Admission are the definitive source of information regarding the Bar Examination and admission to the Bar. Copies of these rules as well as information about admission to the State Bar of Montana can be found at http://www.montanabar.org. Information and study guides specific to the Uniform Bar Examination or the separate components (the MEE, MPT and MBE) can be found on the NCBE website at http://www.ncbex.org.

VOLUNTARY LAW-RELATED PRO BONO ACTIVITY STATEMENT

The provision of pre-admission pro bono services is not a condition to become licensed for law practice in Montana or a consideration for certification by Montana's Character & Fitness Commission. The Voluntary Law-Related Pro Bono Activity Statement is designed to provide an opportunity for applicants to voluntarily disclose pro bono activities and to express specific interests or training needs in the provision of post-admission *pro bono publico* services. If you wish to complete the form, you may do so for either or both purposes. Once admitted to practice law in Montana, you will be asked on an annual basis to complete a similar reporting form.

FAQs for Voluntary Law-Related Pro Bono Activity Statement for Admissions

1. Is reporting mandatory?

No. If you decide not to report your pro bono activities, your application will be considered under the regular admission protocol.

2. Is the information in this form considered for admission purposes?

No. The provision of pre-admission pro bono services is <u>not a condition</u> to become licensed for law practice in Montana. Montana's Character & Fitness Commission <u>will not consider</u> the Voluntary Law-Related Pro Bono Activity Statement during the certification process. The purpose of this form is two-fold: (1) collect information on pro bono activities and (2) communicate training, mentorship, and pro bono opportunities to interested attorneys admitted to the bar.

3. How will the information in this form be used?

Non identifying information (everything but your name and contact information) will be compiled in a report to the Montana Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission. Information may be used for promoting future probono programs and opportunities consistent with those reported by attorneys.

Once admitted to the Bar, if you specifically indicate you would like more information, that information will be include along with other information in the State Bar membership database. Depending on the options you choose, you may continue to receive follow up information regarding bar services or community and professional activities of interest to you.

4. What training opportunities will be provided?

The State of Montana Supreme Court Pro Bono Portal (<u>www.probono.mt.gov</u>) hosts helpful materials for pro bono practice. The bar will also circulate a CLE digest with free CLE information or information pertinent to pro bono practice in Montana.

5. What pro bono opportunities will be provided?

The State of Montana Supreme Court Pro Bono Portal (<u>www.probono.mt.gov</u>) provides a searchable database of information on national, regional, statewide, and local pro bono programs. If you indicate you would like pro bono opportunities you will be provided more information on website content and pro bono opportunities near you.

6. Who will have access to the information provided Pro Bono Activity Statement?

The State Bar of Montana will keep the Pro Bono Activity Statement in your confidential application file. Non identifying information from this statement will be entered by bar staff into a spreadsheet or data collection program and provided to the Montana Supreme Court in an aggregate report.

If you choose to be contacted for additional opportunities, that information will be included in your bar membership profile in the database. This information will not be available to the public or other attorneys. The State Bar of Montana will contact you directly based on your selection and only allow access to the information if explicitly directed by the Access to Justice Commission.

7. What if I do not want to report pro bono hours?

You may choose to complete only the portions of the Activity Statement that you would like. For example, if you choose to not report numerical data regarding pro bono hours spent, you may still indicate your interest in additional information on training and pro bono opportunities.

8. What if I do not have hours to report?

If you do not have hours to report, you can indicate "0" on your Activity Statement or not complete the numerical portion. You may still indicate your interest in additional training and pro bono opportunities.

9. What if I am not admitted to the Bar?

If you are not admitted to the Bar, the Pro Bono Activity Statement will remain with your application on file. The SBM has a retention policy and the Activity Statement will be handled consistent with the rest of the application. If you are later admitted to the Bar, the State Bar of Montana may send you an updated Pro Bono Activity Statement.

For more questions or information, please contact:
Erin Farris-Olsen, Equal Justice Coordinator, State Bar of Montana
erin@montanabar.org
447-2201