

---

**2009** PRO  
BONO  
INSTITUTE  
Annual Seminar  
March 5-7, 2009

Integrating Pro Bono,  
Community Service  
and Charitable Giving

---

INTEGRATED MODELS:  
Justice For Kids and  
Housing Advocacy Initiative

Dianne C. Heins  
Pro Bono Counsel



# An Integrated Model of Law Firm Giving

Faegre & Benson LLP has long organized its corporate giving program to maximize its impact in addressing community needs. As a law firm, we emphasize corporate giving that addresses the unmet legal needs of underserved populations, and we have developed an integrated approach to addressing these needs in priority service areas by coordinating the three distinct elements of the firm's corporate giving program: pro bono legal service, community service projects and charitable giving.

We actively build strong, long-term relationships with each of our community partners, as tangible manifestations of the firm's investment in maintaining a healthy, vital community. The integrated model permits the firm to make sustained commitments over multi-year periods to address priority service areas identified by the firm.

In addition to its external impact, the integrated model enables the firm to engage all firm personnel in service to the community. By providing multiple avenues of volunteer participation, the firm uses the diverse skills and talents of its personnel, and enhances the sense of both personal and institutional commitment to the communities in which we work and live.

The firm has devoted substantial resources to supporting its integrated model, including a full-time pro bono counsel and two pro bono coordinators to manage the pro bono practice, and a dedicated, full-time community service coordinator, who is responsible for managing the firm's community service program, as well as engaging with community partners to determine how best to target the firm's efforts in a manner that complements the firm's pro bono and charitable giving priorities. The professional staff are housed in the Pro Bono & Community Service Department, which allows for close coordination between them in the development and management of the firm's public service activities.

Charitable giving flows through the Faegre & Benson Foundation, and the Department's professional staff work closely with the Foundation partners and officers to plan the charitable giving that is part of the integrated model.

## Recognition

In 2008, Faegre & Benson was honored by the Minnesota Keystone Program, a voluntary association of Minnesota companies which donate 2 or 5 percent of their pre-tax earnings to the community. The law firm, which annually donates at the five percent level, was recognized for its integrated model of corporate giving.

In addition, the firm has received two Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce Quality of Life Awards for public service initiatives which were developed using the firm's integrated model, the first in 1999 for our JUSTice FOR KIDS initiative, and a second in 2005 for our Housing Advocacy Initiative.

Attached is a schematic representation of how the integrated model has been implemented in these two initiatives.

JUSTice FOR KIDS (JFK) was established in 1998 by Faegre & Benson to provide for the needs of abused and neglected children in our community. The centerpiece of the initiative was a unique public-private partnership with the Hennepin County Guardian ad Litem Program, which advocates for children in juvenile court proceedings. The initiative was conceived as a flexible framework through which the firm could serve these children over time, and in direct response to new and emerging needs.

## Pro Bono Projects

- State Wards Advocacy Project
- Termination of Parental Rights Trials
- Termination of Parental Rights Appeals
- Children's Asylum & Immigration
- Grandparent Custody Actions
- Foster Child Representation
- Individual Child Representation
- Friends of Children Foundation

## Community Service Activities

- St. Joseph's Home for Children
- Books on a Blanket
- Angel Book Wish
- Holiday Gift Drives
- Minnesota Vikings Sports & Life Day
- Free Arts Minnesota Event
- Cook for Kids at the Crisis Nursery
- Reading at the Jeremiah Project
- Downtown Open School Mentors
- Lincoln High School Tutoring

## Charitable Giving

- Friends of Children Foundation
- Children's Law Center of Minnesota
- Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery
- Free Arts Minnesota
- Lutheran Social Services
- Project for Pride in Living
- Child Advocacy Scholarships
- Guardian ad Litem Recognition Event

Faegre & Benson's Housing Advocacy Initiative was commenced in 2000 to integrate and coordinate pro bono, community service and charitable resources to assist low-income, vulnerable tenants, maintain and increase affordable housing, or serve the needs of the homeless in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

## Pro Bono Projects

- Hennepin Co. Housing Court Clinic
  - Eviction defense
  - Repair/emergency basic service actions
  - Tenant Repair/Remedies Class Actions
  - Housing Records Expungement
- Fraudulent Real Estate Transactions
  - Real Estate “Flipping”
  - Equity Stripping
  - Predatory Lending – Prevention
- Affordable and Supported Housing
  - Land Use actions for low-income housing
  - Supportive Housing zoning
  - Facility rehabilitation Loans
- Homelessness
  - YouthLaw Clinic for homeless youth
  - Project Homeless Connect – Legal Section Leader

## Community Service Activities

- Habitat for Humanity – Annual Builds
- Annual Projects for Homeless Shelters (United Way Week of Caring)
  - Painting and cleaning projects
  - Sandwich making (1,500+)
  - Hygiene kits (1,500+)
- Project Homeless Connect – Hosts
- Playground Builds at supportive and transitional housing projects

## Charitable Giving

- Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
- Greater Minneapolis Metro Housing Corp.
- Greater Minnesota Housing
- Family Housing Fund
- Project for Pride in Living
- MN Coalition for the Homeless
- St. Stephens Shelter
- Jeremiah Program