

<b>Page: Submitter's Information</b>
<b>Chapter Name</b> ACC Southwest Ohio
<b>Page: Achievement Award</b>
<b>Category</b> Best Partnership Program
<b>Chapter Name</b> ACC Southwest Ohio
<b>Chapter Size</b> Small (fewer than 300 members)
<b>Entry Title</b> Helping Nonprofits: Understanding Their Legal Issues
<b>Entry Description</b> Our chapter, in collaboration with our Pro Bono Committee, created an annual Nonprofit Legal Checkup event. This initiative serves as a gateway for our members to engage in meaningful pro bono work while supporting the legal health of local nonprofit organizations.
<b>When was the program initiated?</b> 2/19/2025
<b>What was the project objective? Describe the steps you took to achieve this objective, including key strategies, activities, or milestones.</b> The event was designed to meet multiple objectives that benefit both the community and our members. Primarily, it aimed to:  Educate attorneys on common legal issues faced by nonprofits, particularly in the areas of governance, employment law, and intellectual property.  Support nonprofit clients in identifying and understanding potential legal concerns through an interactive group exercise.
<b>How was the objective achieved? How did you measure success, and to what extent do you believe the objective was met?</b> The program began with a two-hour CLE session, where participating attorneys received training on how to conduct an effective nonprofit legal checkup. Instruction focused on key areas:  Nonprofit governance and compliance  Employment-related legal issues  Intellectual property considerations  Following the CLE, attorneys were divided into small groups and matched with prescreened nonprofit organizations for a 90-minute session. During these consultations, attorneys used a legal needs checklist to identify potential risks and discuss best practices across the same three legal areas. These meetings helped nonprofits think strategically about compliance, risk management, and organizational governance.  The event concluded with a networking hour, fostering meaningful connections between members and nonprofit leaders.
<b>Please describe the total budget allocated for your program or initiative. Include a brief breakdown of how the funds were distributed across key areas. In addition, explain how the budget was used effectively or creatively to maximize impact.</b> The total program cost was \$8,000. This covered the time and effort of the Pro Bono Partnership staff to plan and execute the program, as well as refreshments provided for attendees throughout the event.
<b>What significant obstacles or challenges did you encounter during the planning or implementation of your program or initiative? How did you address or overcome them? If you did not face major challenges, please explain why that may have been the case and what factors contributed to the smooth execution of your work.</b> Unlike traditional CLE events focused on corporate legal practice, this program required members to step into a pro bono role—something that can be unfamiliar or intimidating. However, strong marketing efforts, high-quality training, and the compelling missions of our nonprofit partners helped ensure robust participation and engagement.

**What do you anticipate will be the long-term impact of your project or initiative? Describe how the outcomes will extend beyond the immediate results, including any lasting benefits to the local/global ACC community. If applicable, explain how the initiative might be sustained, scaled, or replicated in the future.**

The impact of this event extends far beyond a single day. Nonprofits leave better equipped to comply with laws, adopt best practices, and reduce risk. Attorneys gain practical exposure to nonprofit legal issues and often feel more confident accepting pro bono matters in the future. This builds ongoing relationships between the legal and nonprofit communities, strengthening the overall fabric of our region's support network.

Please share what you are most proud to report about execution of this program. Please explain what this accomplishment means to you and how it reflects the values or goals of your work.

We are proudest of the enthusiasm and fulfillment expressed by our members after volunteering their time and expertise. Knowing they supported organizations that fight for equity, assist survivors of abuse, feed the hungry, and serve other vulnerable populations was deeply rewarding. Participants left the event not only feeling connected to their community but also empowered to continue using their skills for good.

**Please share how your project or initiative is innovative. Describe any original approaches, strategies, or tools you used to address a problem or achieve your goals. What makes your work stand out from more traditional methods.**

This program stands out because it simultaneously educates attorneys and empowers them to make an immediate impact. It introduces transactional attorneys—who may otherwise hesitate to participate in pro bono service—to a practical, structured way to give back. By providing both a training and a direct service opportunity, this initiative encourages long-term pro bono engagement and contributes meaningfully to the strength and sustainability of local nonprofits.

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