



Attorneys at Law • A Law Corporation

June 2, 2009

Simeon R. Acoba, Jr.  
Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i  
Ali'iolani Hale  
417 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: **Pro Bono**

Dear Justice Acoba:

I am writing in response to your recent invitation that I expand on my 25 word description of how our firm achieves its pro bono goals and, in doing so, exceeds the aspirational goals set by the Court.

The answer is three-fold.

First, we give all lawyers full credit toward their annual billing goals for "partner-approved" pro bono work. This makes it easy for every associate to find some matter they are passionate about and treat it as something important, not something that distracts from their "real work."

Second, we believe that it is imperative for lawyers to recognize the "justice system" is strengthened if the poor, as well as the rich, have access to the courts and skilled advocates. So, we look for opportunities to be advocates for the voiceless. Thus, for example, in 2008 we represented homeless children in a class action against the Department of Education and obtained an injunction, and then a settlement, that gave these children better access to education. The psychic rewards of doing this work are immeasurable.

Third, we recognize that, as a law firm, it is important that we must use our skills to strengthen our community, not just profit from being in the community. Lawyers are often criticized for caring and doing too little for the well-being of the community.

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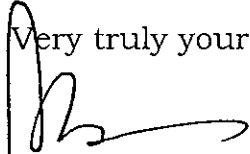
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We value the contributions our lawyers make in attempting to address legal problems facing the community. We think our clients value these efforts, as well.

I hope this answers your questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Alston', written over a vertical line that serves as a placeholder for a signature.

Paul Alston

PA:bp