



Ontario • New York
Regional Sociolegal Studies Conference



Tuesday, May 19, 2009

**Pro Bono, Lawyers, and the State:
Cross-Border Perspectives**

Framing Questions

- a. How have changes in state support for legal services shaped the evolution of contemporary pro bono activities?
- b. What kinds of infrastructures exist in Canada and the US for linking private attorneys with public interest/legal aid attorneys?
- c. What kinds of resources should fund pro bono efforts (state, market, philanthropy etc)?
- d. Is pro bono more lawyer-centered, client-centered, cause-centered and does this matter in the delivery of pro bono legal services in Canada and the US?
- e. What are the politics of pro bono in Canada and the US, i.e. contested meanings over the definition of “the public good”?
- f. Is there an “Americanization” of pro bono in Canada and what are the implications of this development in terms of access to justice and social justice?
- g. How does the context of legal practice affect the provision of pro bono services in Canada and the US?
- h. To what extent are issues related to pro bono integrated into the law school experience and would this enhance the law school experience?
- i. Are there best practices for encouraging pro bono within legal professions?
- j. What implications might there be for the growing international pro bono movement in areas such as human rights, asylum seekers, refugees, or access to medical care, education, and decent housing?