

NEWS

Pro bono website planned

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The Cyrus Vance Center for International Justice is launching a new website to encourage Latin American law firms to increase the amount of pro bono work completed by their lawyers.

“We want to promote an exchange of ideas, opinions and different experiences in the region,” says Elise Colomer, director of the centre’s Latin America programme.

“Users of the website will be able to discuss how best to transform the legal profession to meet diverse social needs.” The launch will be preceded by the publication of a manual next month offering guidelines to Latin American law firms on how to institutionalise pro bono work within their practices.

The website will provide a virtual community for lawyers and others to exchange ideas, and will include a blog, discussion forums, a members’ directory and an instant-messaging service.

The initiatives are part of the implementation of the Pro Bono Declaration for the Americas, in which over 75 law firms have pledged that each of their lawyers will undertake a minimum of 20 hours of pro bono work per year.

Signatories to the declaration met in Buenos Aires in October, as previously reported here.

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