Prioritized Action Items
Group 2: Permissible Judicial Encouragement of Pro Bono
Moderator: David Swank, Student Scrivener Rob Brown

NOTE: Our breakout group declined to "rank" action items in priority. We thought the priority would be apparent from the items themselves. Some must be accomplished almost immediately, and others require constant effort (which might begin immediately, but only be effective later, and only so long as the effort continues). What follows is the order in which the group created its action items.

Urge Oklahoma Bar Association House of Delegates to adopt Rule 3.7(b) of the Proposed Code of Judicial Conduct

Encourage adoption of new Rule 6.1 of the Oklahoma Rules of Professional Conduct.

Encourage judges to adopt, through local rules, the legal forms developed for pro bono services through the actions of the other breakout groups.

Encourage the Oklahoma Appellate courts to give greater consideration to pro bono appeals when deciding whether an appeal warrants/merits oral argument. This may provide an inducement to appellate lawyers to do pro bono work.

Encourage the Judicial Conference to focus on pro bono representation in upcoming meeting agendas (rather than relegate the topic to a breakout group session), *and* to prioritize pro bono efforts throughout the year.

Make and communicate guidelines on the "DO's and DON'T's" for judges when encouraging attorneys to take pro bono cases.

The Oklahoma Bar Association should offer free CLE on how to represent pro bono clients.

Research means of providing protection from malpractice liability for pro bono services provided without referral from Legal Aid. Work towards making the changes necessary to implement protection for attorneys representing pro bono clients through Legal Aid or other sources.