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Pro Bono Partnership Awards 2 Legal Teams At Annual Gala

Law360 (October 22, 2026, 10:31 AM EDT) -- The Pro Bono Partnership recently presented its 2026 Pro Bono Champion Award to Boehringer Ingelheim USA Corp.'s legal department and Jenner & Block LLP for their outstanding pro bono work during its 29th Anniversary Gala held at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan.

The Sept. 30 event brought together in-house legal teams, law firms and supporters across the tristate area to celebrate the legal profession's commitment to strengthening nonprofits and their communities.

The celebration included dinner and an auction, which, in addition to pre-gala fundraising, raised a record-setting $2.1 million. The emcee of the evening was Dan Abrams, chief legal affairs analyst at ABC News.

The Pro Bono Partnership's 29th Anniversary Gala brought together in-house legal teams, law firms and supporters across the tristate area to celebrate the legal profession's commitment to strengthening nonprofits and their communities. (Courtesy of Pro Bono Partnership)

From left: Jonathan Mothner, board chairman at the Pro Bono Partnership; Debra Forster, senior vice president and general counsel at Boehringer Ingelheim USA Corp.; and Ann L. Shal of, executive director at the Pro Bono Partnership, after presenting Forster with the nonprofit's 2026 Pro Bono Champion Award. (Courtesy of Pro Bono Partnership)

The Pro Bono Partnership's 29th Anniversary Gala was held Sept. 30 at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan. (Courtesy of Pro Bono Partnership)

From left: Jonathan Mothner, board chairman at the Pro Bono Partnership; Megan Poetzel, partner and pro bono co-chair at Jenner & Block LLP; Elizabeth Coleman, vice president and deputy general counsel at Uber; and Ann L. Shalof, executive director at the Pro Bono Partnership, after presenting Poetzel with the nonprofit's 2026 Pro Bono Champion Award. (Courtesy of Pro Bono Partnership)

Dan Abrams, chief legal affairs analyst at ABC News, emceed the Pro Bono Partnership's 29th Anniversary Gala, which included dinner, an awards ceremony and an auction. (Courtesy of Pro Bono Partnership)

The Pro Bono Partnership's annual gala included an auction, which, in addition to pre-gala fundraising, raised a record-setting $2.1 million. (Courtesy of Pro Bono Partnership)

Since 1997, the Pro Bono Partnership has connected volunteer attorneys with nonprofit organizations that need business and transactional legal assistance and cannot afford outside counsel. Working across Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, the organization helps nonprofits address legal issues that are essential to their long-term stability, from governance and employment matters to contracts, intellectual property and regulatory compliance.

Last year, the Pro Bono Partnership and its nearly 2,000 volunteers assisted about 1,000 nonprofits on more than 2,200 legal matters. Those nonprofit clients address a wide range of needs, like food insecurity, housing, education and the arts, and deliver critical services for children, older adults, people with disabilities and more.

--Submitted by Pro Bono Partnership

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