



**RESOLUTION  
REGARDING COMMUNITY AND PRO BONO SERVICE**

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) is an organization which has as its mission providing “leadership that promotes the highest degree of professionalism and excellence in the practice of family law”;

WHEREAS, in November 2020, the AAML adopted a resolution that urged state courts and state and local bar associations to, among other things, encourage the delivery of pro bono legal services to help meet the needs of the public who are not receiving adequate legal representation and lack the means to do so;

WHEREAS, in November 2018, the AAML adopted a strategic plan defining one of our core values as promoting charitable giving and public service, and defining a strategic goal of charitable support;

WHEREAS, access to justice is a critical aspect of the American legal system and the United States is experiencing a “justice gap,” with the the number of Americans who need legal services, but cannot afford legal assistance to meet their needs, having increased significantly over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the public deserves to receive legal services from lawyers specifically trained and educated in family law and expertly qualified in the relevant jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers shall adopt an aspirational guideline for the provision of pro-bono legal services; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that every Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers should aspire to render a minimum of 50 hours of service per calendar year and/or provide substantial financial assistance by one or more of the following activities:

- A. Provide professional services at no fee or at a substantially reduced fee to the poor or persons of limited means;
- B. Provide professional services at no fee or at a substantially reduced fee to organizations that have as a principal purpose promoting the interests of the poor or or persons of limited means;
- C. Provide professional services at no fee or at a substantially reduced fee in connection with family law-related education;
- D. Provide professional services at no fee or substantially reduced fee to charitable groups or organizations;
- E. Provide professional services at no fee or substantially reduced fee to groups or organizations that improve the professionalism and practice of family law; or
- F. Provide financial assistance to organizations that provide legal services to the poor or persons of limited means or that support the AAML’s goals of assisting family affected by the legal system, such as the AAML Foundation.