Final Report

Executive Summary

Our event’s goal was to provide the Filipino-American community with legal resources that it might not have approached freely. We achieved our goal by overcoming the socio-cultural stigma of approaching immigration, family or estate law attorneys by bringing those attorneys to the people in a casual setting. A number of attendees and organizers expressed their gratitude for our efforts.

Evaluation

The goal for the event was as follows:

“To offer free legal services to those attending PhilFest by partnering with local attorneys with specialties in matters like immigration, family, or estate law. We know that people are often stricken with daily issues but do not always have the chance to consult an attorney because of financial concerns or a basic absence of access. Thus, our program is meant to bring those things to them. The overall environment of PhilFest not only allows us to focus on ethnic minorities, but also serves as a fun backdrop to further enhance engagement.”

The attendance at the festival was likely in the thousands over the weekend. Our organization was one of the many tables on-site and was staffed with roughly 25 student volunteers throughout the day. Additionally, 10 local attorneys volunteered their time to assist us throughout the day. As people approached, the students first began the conversation by explaining to them our purpose and asking if they had any legal questions or concerns they might want to ask about. From there the students had the individual fill out a brief intake form and listened to a short description of the person’s issue so they could have them sit down with an attorney of the appropriate discipline.

Once seated with an attorney, the conversation lasted anywhere from a five minutes to a half hour. One woman even brought many of her wills and estate documents which were then reviewed by a family attorney present.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Many people were initially timid to speak openly about their personal problems, however, because of the casual setting and the warm welcome of our student volunteers they slowly opened up. It was plainly seen that each person was extremely thankful. Also, many were relieved that asking questions and getting answers proved so easy and worthwhile. However, it was not only the festival goers who benefitted. Our board members, who were well versed in the festival and Filipino culture’s traditions, exposed the student volunteers and attorneys to new foods, history, and entertainment. It was clear that even the volunteers gained something they were not expecting.

Neither our organization nor the attorneys received any revenue from this project. The initiative was completely free. In fact, the festival usually charges a fee to rent tables at the event. However, because of our initiative they allowed us to be present for free. It was in ways such as this that we kept costs low and could
provide such services at no cost to anyone attending the festival. With the assistance of the ABA we were also able to ensure the attorney volunteers would not be burdened by costs to park or entry to the festival. Equally, this benefit was offered to a number of student volunteers who already bore the costs of driving nearly an hour from home.

Our organization worked diligently to promote the event to students and attorneys alike so that our community engagement would be possible. We crafted flyers, promotional videos, and other materials to be used prior to and on the day of the event. In the end, the event surpassed even our own expectations. Many of the festival organizers eagerly invited us to come back the next year and many attorneys wrote in to thank us and that they were already looking forward to being back the following year.

We could not have made this event possible without the help of the ABA grant. More than this, we could have never imagined the event would have this large of an impact in only its first year. This event has real potential for growth and provides a very real benefit to all who participated whether culturally, charitably, or legally. We are looking forward to next year’s event already!

Sincerely,
Matthew A. Ceriale
Candidate for Juris Doctor | 2019
Stetson University College of Law
President | Asian American Law Student Association
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The ASIAN AMERICAN LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION at Stetson Law

Proudly Promoting Asian Cultural Awareness Within The Legal Community

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!
ASIAN AMERICAN LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION AT STETSON LAW
AALSA
ASIAN AMERICAN LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION
at Stetson Law
LEGAL OUTREACH @PhilFest 2k17

Opportunity for local attorneys to engage with ethnic minorities within the community.

Provide individuals in need of legal assistance with suggestions for remediying their situation(s).

13,000+ attendees in years past!

Date: Saturday, April 8th

Location: 14301 Nine Eagles Drive, Tampa, FL 33636

Suggested times of appearance: 10A - 12P, 12P - 2P, 2P - 4P, 4P - 6P

**Additional scheduling accommodations are available**

Attorneys who are willing to provide free consultations but are unable to attend can submit a business card in lieu of attendance. However, in-person interaction is preferred.
LEGAL OUTREACH

@PhilFest 2k17

NEED LEGAL PRO BONO?

WHO: STUDENTS IN NEED OF >> LEGAL << PRO BONO HOURS
WHAT: ASSIST ATTORNEYS WITH TABLING
WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH + (4) HOUR SHIFTS, 10AM TO 2PM OR 2PM TO 6PM
WHERE: 14301 NINE EAGLES DRIVE, TAMPA, FL 33636
CONTACT: EMAIL MFRANCISCO@LAW.STETSON.EDU BY 3/31 TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!

ABA Defending Liberty Pursuing Justice

First 15 to RSVP: Free Parking + Admission!
THE ASIAN AMERICAN LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

LEGAL OUTREACH @PhilFest 2k17

OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL ATTORNEYS TO ENGAGE WITH ETHNIC MINORITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

PROVIDE INDIVIDUALS IN NEED OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR REMEDYING THEIR SITUATION (S)

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ATTORNEYS WHO ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE FREE CONSULTATIONS BUT ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CAN SUBMIT A BUSINESS CARD IN LIEU OF ATTENDANCE, HOWEVER, IN-PERSON INTERACTION IS PREFERRED