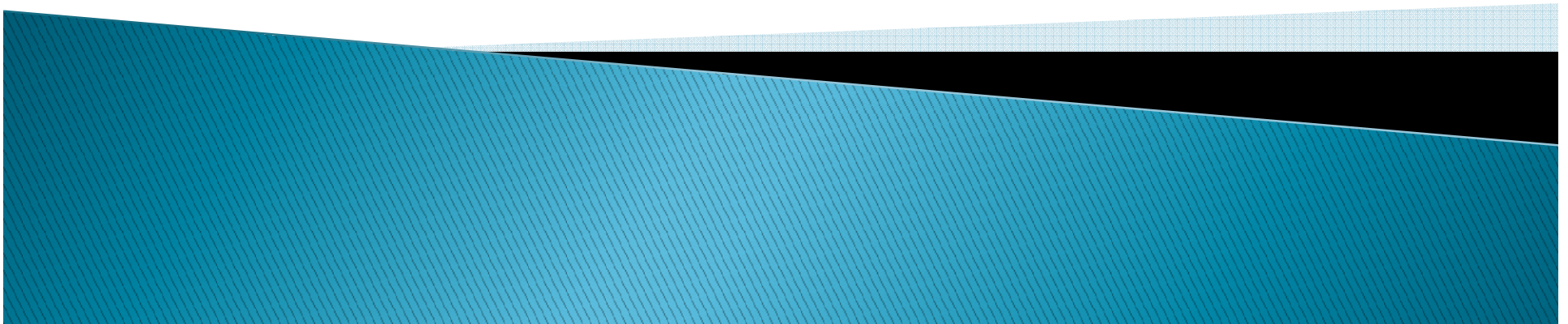


Developing & Rejuvenating Your Pro Bono Program

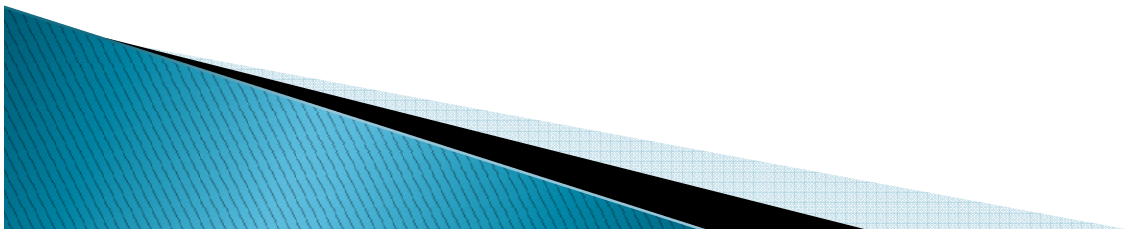
Presented by: Judith Bardsley,
PAP Pro Bono Committee Chair,
NFPA Pro Bono Co-coordinator



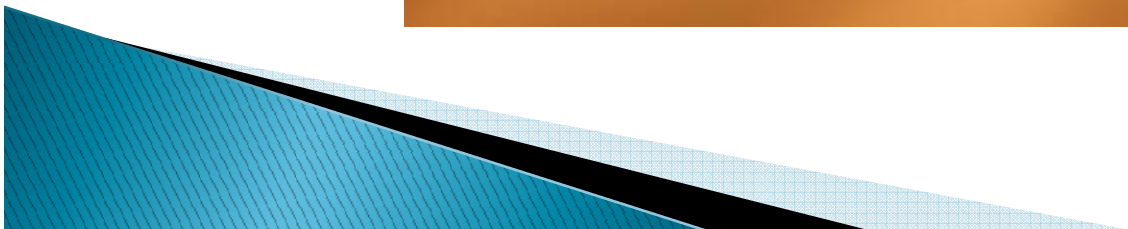
Introduction

Welcome!

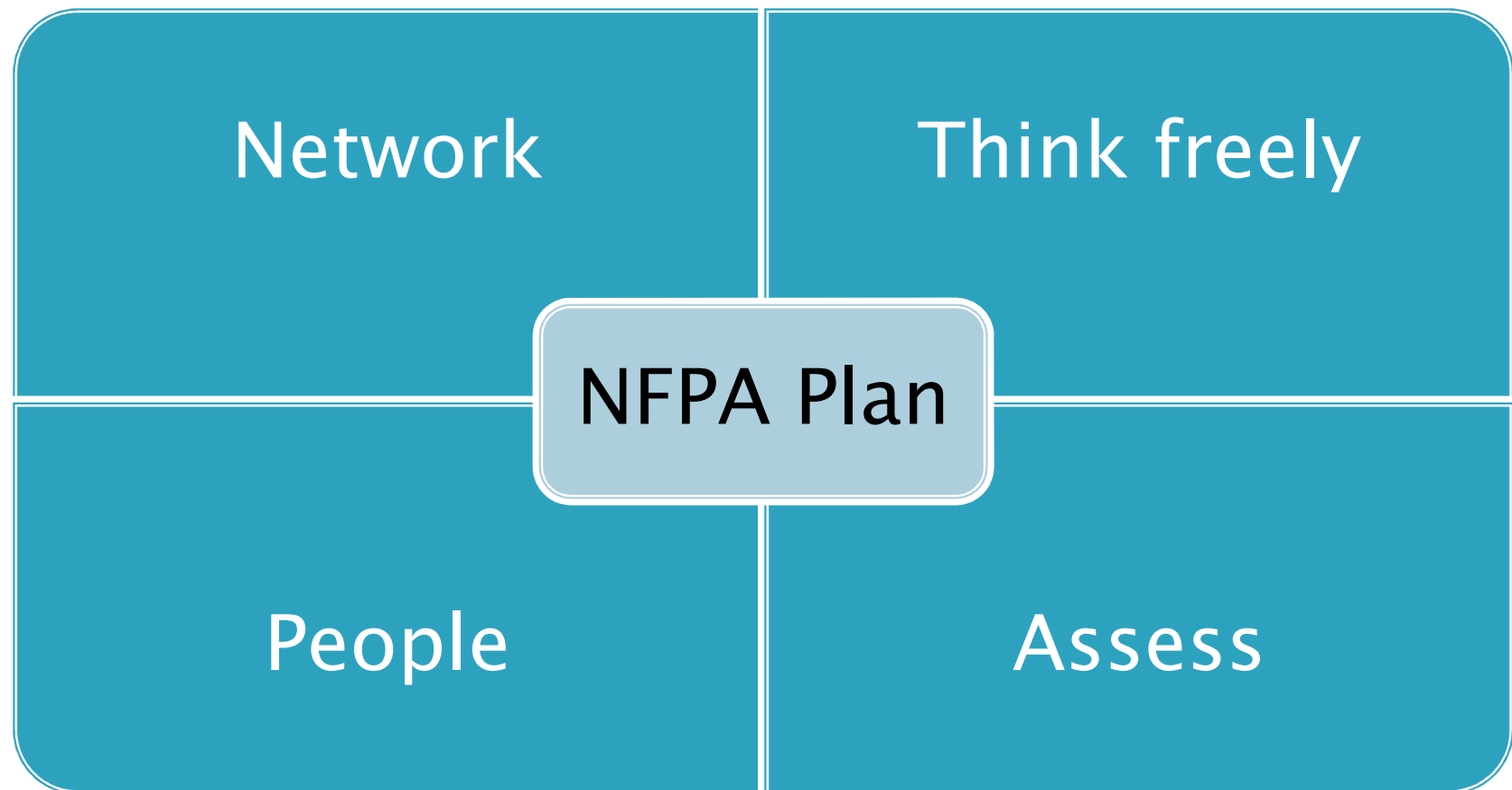
- My volunteer history/ pro bono committee journey.
- The challenge of starting a pro bono program.
- Relax!



Are you a “afraid not” / “frayed knot”?



How to develop a pro bono program and not become a “afraid not” / “frayed knot”



NFPA Plan – Assess

▶ Your situation & opportunities

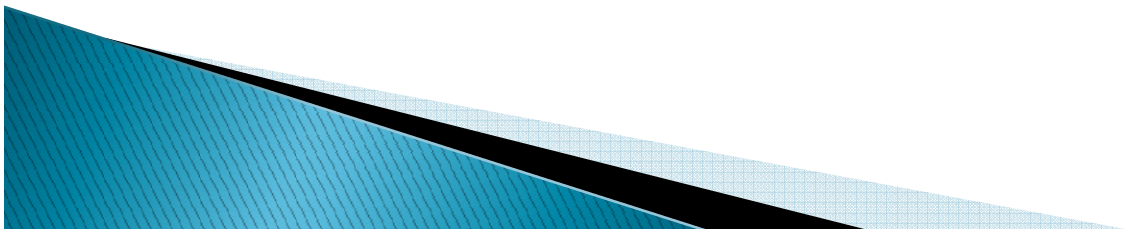
- What kind of pro bono organizations are in your area?
 - What are their volunteer opportunities?
 - Are they paralegal friendly?

▶ Learn your playing field through research

- Internet, social media, etc.

▶ Established programs

- Use technology to keep up with what's going on in your local pro bono community.



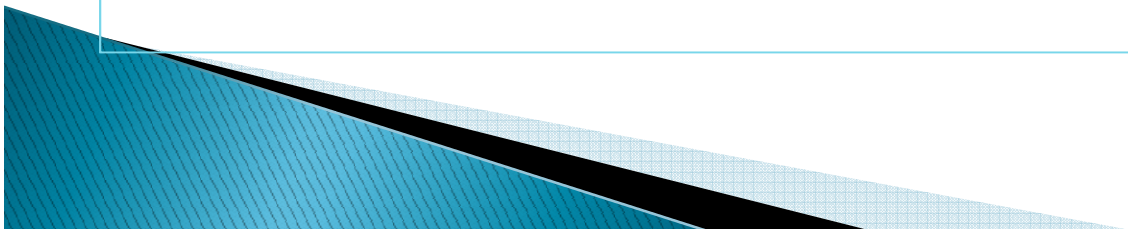
NFPA Plan – People

- ▶ Know who the people in your association are.
 - Students, newbie paralegals, veteran paralegals?
 - This will give you clues as to what kind of pro bono opportunities will work.
 - Don't forget your association leadership .
 - They will be your volunteers too!
 - They are resources to recruit additional volunteers.
 - They can help you spread the word about your pro bono efforts.
 - They can partner with you on opportunities.
 - This will provide you with the info you need to be able to know what you have to offer.



NFPA Plan – Think Freely

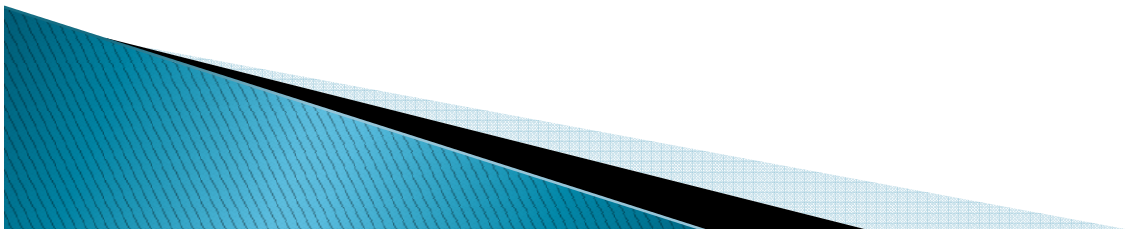
- ▶ Be creative in addressing the challenges you encounter.
- ▶ Don't get stuck on the traditional concept of paralegals and pro bono work.



NFPA Plan – Think Freely

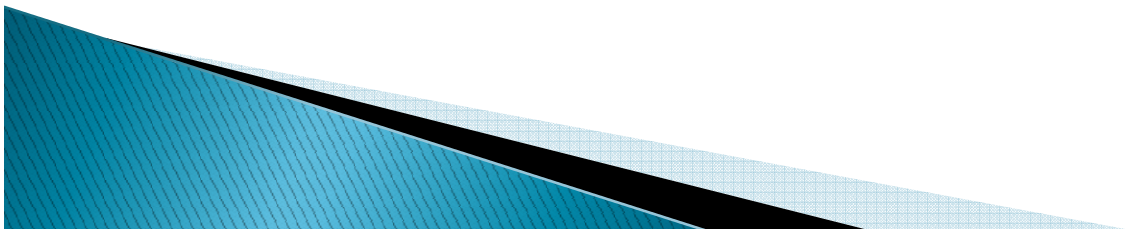
Why?

- It doesn't address the issues paralegals encounter with doing pro bono work:
 - Lack of time
 - No attorney to partner with or employer support
 - Level of interest
- It doesn't address the full scope of pro bono organizations' needs:
 - Help with administrative tasks and projects.



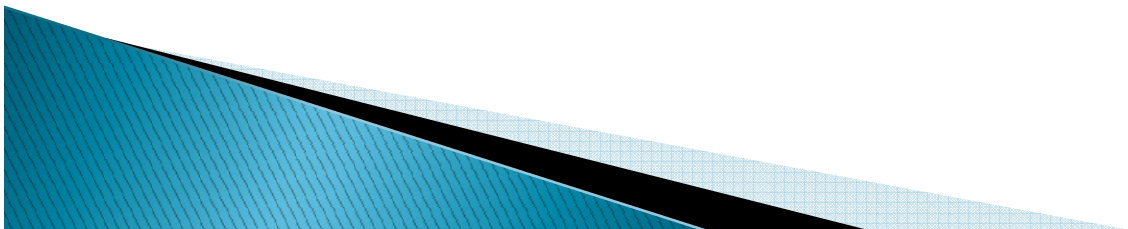
NFPA Plan – Network

- ▶ Getting the word out about your pro bono efforts:
 - Write articles
 - Attend fundraisers
 - Be the guinea pig
 - Highlight a job well done
 - Write notes of support & congratulations



Pro Bono & Community Service

- ▶ They should compliment, not compete with each other.
 - Use community service as foundation for developing substantive pro bono opportunities.
 - Focus most of your community service on opportunities that have potential to lead to pro bono opportunities or have some connection to a goal or aspiration of your association.
- ▶ Don't spend too much time debating whether or not an opportunity is substantive pro bono work.



NFPA Resolution 99-F-4

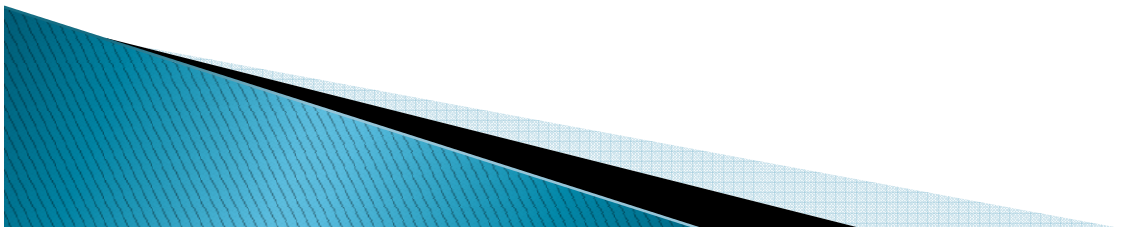
Definition of Pro Bono Publico

“[M]eans providing or assisting to provide quality legal services in order to enhance access to justice for persons of limited means; charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the legal needs of persons with limited means; or individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights.”

NFPA Resolution 06-05

Definition of Community Service

“...[D]efined as volunteer activities that would not meet the definition of *pro bono*, as adopted by the delegates in Resolution 99F-4 and is further defined as unpaid services that are volunteered by individuals to benefit an organization, community, or its institutions that are provided through the direction of a non-profit organization as defined under the Internal Revenue Code. The definition focuses on volunteer services that improve the quality of life for community residents, or to solve particular problems related to their needs.”



Conclusion

- ▶ No matter if you have 5 minutes or 50 hours to dedicate to a paralegal pro bono program, you can make a difference. Every volunteer makes a difference!
- ▶ NFPA Pro Bono Coordinators are here to support you.
- ▶ What is your plan?
 - What are you going to do when you go home to get something going or to enhance a program you already have?
 - Please share!

