

Alessandri and Philippi shine at pro bono awards

Wednesday, 8th September 2010 by Rosie Cresswell

Santiago's clearinghouse, Fundación Pro Bono, has awarded law firms and members of Chile's legal community for their pro bono contributions.



[Alessandri & Cía](#) and [Philippi, Yrarrázaval, Pulido & Brunner](#) were made pro bono law firms of the year by the foundation at an awards dinner last Wednesday.

José María Eyzaguirre of [Claro y Cía](#); Pedro Pablo Gutierrez, current president of the foundation's advisory board; and Pilar Aspillaga, former executive director of the organisation, were given special recognition for their contribution to pro bono. The foundation also recognised the achievements of firms' pro bono coordinators, who assign pro bono cases to lawyers and are the face of a firm in its dealings with the foundation. This year Jose Antonio Velasco of [Bofill Mir & Álvarez Hinzpeter Jana](#) and Carey & Allende's Nicolas Lama most impressed the foundation.

Elsewhere, [Carey y Cía](#) won the pro bono case category for its practical guide to entrepreneurialism in Chile.

Chile's Fundación Pro Bono is widely regarded in Latin America as an exemplar of how such an organisation should work. The dinner, held at Santiago's Casa Piedra and attended by 300 lawyers and representatives of the legal community, was also in celebration of the foundation's 10th year.

Chile's Justice Minister, Felipe Bulnes, gave the welcoming speech, while the foundation's president, Pablo Guerrero of [Barros & Errázuriz Abogados](#), reflected on the its first 10 years, noting that it has so far assisted more than 10,000 people.



The dinner also gave attendees an opportunity to recognise the achievements of individuals in response to the earthquake. Chilean lawyer, businessman and sportsman Felipe Cubillos spoke about the success of “Desafío Levantemos Chile”, an organisation he set up immediately after the earthquake which has gone to

tremendous efforts to rebuild lives, schools and the local fishing industry.

The foundation honoured the accomplishments of members of Chile's universities who gave their time to Ayuda Legal Chile, which was set up to give free legal advice to victims of the earthquake.

Awards were also given to criminal lawyer Francisco Velozo of Albagli Zaliasnik Abogados and Joanna Heskia of the country's criminal lawyer network, and to the law faculty of the Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez for its commitment to volunteering.