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Future of pro bono discussed in Chile

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Some 200 lawyers and pro bono practitioners from around the region have been gathering in Santiago for a conference on 'Pro Bono and the legal profession: strengthening access to justice', organised by the Cyrus Vance Center of the New York City Bar and Chile's Fundación Pro Bono.



A panel including Latin Lawyer's Sebastian O'Meara (far left) moderating a roundtable on 'The Pro Bono Chain'

Chile's strong commitment to pro bono was underlined by the presence at the event's opening of Chile's justice minister, Felipe Bulnes, until recently a leading litigator in private practice, who spoke of the government's plans for the promotion of equal access to justice. He was accompanied by the president of Chile's Supreme Court, Nibaldo Segura, while other key speakers included US district Judge George B Daniels and Hernân Vera, president and executive director of the leading US pro bono organisation, Public Counsel.

The meeting was opened by Vance Center chair Antonia Stolper (Shearman & Sterling LLP, New York) and Fundación Pro Bono Chile president Pablo Guerrero (of [Barros & Errázuriz Abogados](#)), while former Vance Center chair Todd Crider (Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, New York) led a panel looking at the implementation of the Pro Bono Declaration of the Americas.

Latin Lawyer took part in the event, moderating a roundtable on 'The Pro Bono Chain' that featured contributions from Beatriz Martorello, president of the Inter-American Bar Association, José Ugaz ([Benites, Forno, Ugaz & Ludowieg, Andrade](#), Lima) and Cristiân Toro, general counsel of LAN Airlines.