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Pro-Bono Work in Large Israeli Law Firms as an Opportunity to Expand Access to Justice

In Israel, the prevailing notion suggests that lawyers must choose early in their careers between pursuing work in the third sector and public service or opting for private practice. This article challenges this dichotomy by presenting an alternative model: the American model, in which social justice work can also be integrated into private law firms, especially in large firms that establish structured pro bono programs in collaboration with nonprofit organizations.

With the American model in mind, the article examines the state of pro bono work in Israel, finding that Israel lags behind the United States in this area. However, the research also identifies a recent and notable shift among large Israeli firms seeking to formalize and expand their pro bono activities.

The article examines the motivations behind these changes, discusses the barriers that still exist, and introduces strategies and mechanisms to overcome them. This article aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on the role of private law firms in promoting social justice in Israel.