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Latin Lawyer announces Pro Bono Project of the Year Award

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Latin Lawyer is pleased to announce the winner of this year's Pro Bono Project of the Year Award: Fundación Desafío Levantemos Chile, for its work reconstructing areas damaged by one of the most devastating fires in Chilean history.

Catastrophic wild fire broke out across Chile's central regions of O'Higgins, Maule and Bío Bío, south of Santiago, in early 2017. Within just one week of the fire breaking out, the affected regions saw 600 fire points, leaving more than 8,000 people homeless, approximately 2,000 houses destroyed, and 497,000 hectares of land consumed by the flames.

Taking pro bono counsel from [Prieto](#) Abogados and Isabel Díaz y Asociados, Fundación Desafío Levantemos raised more than US\$25 million, which has been using to rebuild houses, schools, and hospitals. It has also used some of the money for reforestation projects, as well as to introduce solar panelling across the afflicted regions. It invested in training entrepreneurs to recover their businesses after the fire's destruction forced many Chileans to rebuild their livelihoods from scratch.

"Being part of the process by which a community recovered from the most devastating fire in Chilean history, and emerge stronger than before, is something that makes us very proud and we will treasure it forever," says senior associate Juan Andrés Ilharborde who heads [Prieto](#)'s pro bono work with the foundation.

Latin Lawyer will present the award at its [annual charity awards ceremony](#) at the Hotel Palácio Tangará in São Paulo on Wednesday 10th April. Tickets are available [here](#).

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