

EXPLANATION OF THE MODELS

- The models describe a system that provides all the delivery strategies in the ABA Standards except alternative dispute resolution (I have no data from NM to use for this strategy, and have never seen any data from any other state).
- The “Maintain On-going Activities” in the 2007-09 model describes the current system. Hidden costs are revealed: for example, I show an estimate for the amount that is now being spent on Outreach, even though, to my knowledge, no program (except possibly Law Access includes outreach) in their budget.
- The expansion column shows increased activity in each strategy as new funds (mostly, larger appropriations from the legislature) are received.
- Inflation is taken into account for revenue and expenses. I assumed base revenue will grow at 3% per year, while expenses will grow at 4% per year.
- In return for higher salaries, advocates are expected to be more productive: both in the number of “client hours” (actual hours spent with clients) and in the average time to complete an intake, and to close advice, brief service and full representation cases. The models show that even a small increase in productivity—say, a tenth of an hour off the time to close the average full representation case—has enormous impact (measured in hundreds of thousands of dollars) on the number of clients served.
- The model proposes to open new offices in Socorro, Alamogordo and Los Lunas, and to expand staffs in Roswell, Clovis and Silver City. The model assumes that these offices will provide mostly full representation, since we will have full control over how these offices build their caseloads.
- Total cases and total beneficiaries are not yet calculated (for example, the model does not calculate the effect of the new and expanded offices on cases closed). I can do that at a future date (I leave in the midst of Monday’s meeting for the rest of the week).
- The model assumes that the District Pro Bono Plans will produce a modest increase in the number of cases closed by volunteer attorneys. I’m assuming that most of the plans will focus on pro se clinics, given that bar associations are already involved in Las Cruces, Roswell and Santa Fe. I have not calculated the impact of pro bono clinics, but it will be enormous (Wayne Moore’s data shows that the equivalent of one attorney FTE engage in pro se activities produces 4000 persons served. I have used more conservative standards than Wayne’s in every activity, but even at 1000 persons served per FTE, the numbers served will be very large).