

**Access to Justice Commission  
Judicial District Local Pro Bono Committee  
2010 Annual Report for the Period  
January – December 2009**

**FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT;  
EDDY COUNTY**

**Access to Justice Commission 2010 Annual Report, 5<sup>th</sup> District, Eddy County**

**1. Provide a list of your committee members with phone numbers and e.mail addresses.**

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**Access to Justice Commission 2010 Annual Report, 5<sup>th</sup> District, Eddy County**

**2. Has your committee been successful in developing programs that enable attorneys to assist your low-income population? Please describe the program(s). If not, why not?**

Success has been mixed. Our committee, in conjunction with our local senior centers and Eddy County Community Action Center, attempted an offering for will preparation and advice for problems for low-income families (eg. landlord/tenant issues, etc.) but we had few “takers”.

Judge Gray each month conducts a *pro se* litigants training at the courthouse.

Local attorneys are available for referral from the court to provide unbundled services and legal advice.

**3. Have you formed a Volunteer Attorney Pool from a survey or other tool? Please list the names of the attorneys who have provided pro bono services through participation in one of your programs. If you have not formed a Volunteer Attorney Pool, why not?**

Our volunteer attorney pool consists of the following persons:

Susan Moore	Denise Madrid Boyea
Cas Tabor	Matt Byers
W. T. Martin, Jr.	Will Weiss
Eileen Riordan	Ray Rascon
Roxanne Lara	Lane Martin
Amber Chavez Baker	John Caraway
Cathrynn Brown	
Joe Gant	

**4. Has your committee attempted to develop programs that have been unsuccessful in attracting assistance from pro bono attorneys? Please describe.**

No, but see answer to #2 herein: we developed a program with excellent attorney participation but very poor response from the public.

**5. Please quantify the number of your low-income population who have benefitted from your programs. Provide detail by program, if possible (i.e., clinic attendance, direct representation, etc.).**

Attendance at the *pro se* litigants training average about 15 persons per month, therefore about 180 persons were served annually.

The following law firms (averaging between 2 to 3 practitioners per firm) reports persons served in 2009 on a fully *pro bono* basis:

McCormick, Caraway and Tabor: 15	Martin, Dugan & Martin: 6
Marek & Francis: 5	Lara Law Firm: 21

**Access to Justice Commission 2010 Annual Report, 5<sup>th</sup> District, Eddy County**

Boyea Law Firm: 5

Gant Law Firm: 4

**6. What do you see as the greatest impediment to securing pro bono assistance for your district's low income people? Please quantify the impediment, if possible.**

Lack of awareness by the public of available services; and no local legal aid office to direct the public to attorneys or other resources.

**7. Do you anticipate your current pro bono program to maintain its current status and/or grow in subsequent years? Please explain.**

We anticipate the *pro bono* programs will at least maintain their current status. The *pro se* litigants training is a set part of the court schedule and therefor will continue indefinitely.

**8. Did your committee participate in New Mexico Pro Bono Week and if so, were the public functions sponsored during that week successful? Please quantify public participation. If not, please describe why the public functions were not successful. Do you intend to include similar functions in your on-going future pro bono plans?**

Yes, and the sponsored functions were successful. We cannot quantify because no attendance records were maintained. Volunteer attorneys conducted one-hour workshops each noon hour at the courthouse covering the following topics: financial and health care powers of attorney; bankruptcy pros & cons; mediation—what is it and how does it work; grandparent rights and kinship guardianships.

Evening workshops were held at the municipal library covering: Medicare and advanced health care directives; debtor's rights; child custody matters; and keys for a good landlord.

**9. New Mexico Pro Bono Week was initiated as part of the national 1st Annual Celebrate Pro Bono Week. Would you support participation in another New Mexico Pro Bono Week?**

Yes.

**10. The ATJ Commission would like to use your work to build a resource guide for use by all committees. Please attach any forms, flyers, press releases, DVDs or other material you've used to implement your on-going programs or your participation in New Mexico Pro Bono Week.**