

**Access to Justice Commission  
6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Local Pro Bono Committee  
2010 Annual Report for the Period  
January - December 2009**

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

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**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?**

*Yes. The Committee has developed a referral system which includes the following process:*

- A. Income qualifying persons first apply to the local Legal Aid Office for services; Legal Aid screens for eligibility;*
- B. If Legal Aid is unable to handle the matter either because: (i) lack of resources; (ii) the subject matter; or (iii) a conflict, the case is referred to a subcommittee of the Local Pro Bono Committee for screening of the case; and*
- C. The subcommittee contacts attorneys in the volunteer pool and provides name of willing attorney to Legal Aid, Legal Aid calls the attorney to provide a concise summary of the issue presented and confirm that he/she will accept the referral as a Pro Bono or reduced fee case and contacts the prospective client regarding the referral.*

**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?**

*Yes. The Sixth Judicial District Committee employed two surveys to create an attorney pool. First, there was a survey of the local population in all three counties. Second, we surveyed all attorneys in the district to create an attorney pool in keeping with attorneys various practice. The names of the attorneys are:*

*R. Nathan Gonzales, Frederick S. Grahan, Peter A. Keys, James S. Manlowe, Cynthia J. Patterson, William J. Perkins, James H. Reynolds, Thomas F. Stewart, Hans William Voss, Norman Wheeler and Canon Stevens*

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

*The largest obstacle to having Pro Bono involvement by a large segment of licensed attorneys has been the resistance of government agency attorneys who routinely resist Pro Bono work, even if the work is only for purposes of educating the public on public interest subjects.*

**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 representations, etc.).**

*Quantifying Number Assisted:*

*A. Pro Bono Day, October 28, 2009. We had attendance of approximately 100 persons to hear attorney presentations on various subjects including consumer protection, bankruptcy, divorce, custody/child support, landlord/tenant issues, protection from financial criminal conduct, wills and estate planning, etc.*

*B. Approximately 8 attorneys assisted. 60 persons received free legal advice in 15 minute blocks of time. Many of those resulted in private follow-up meetings with volunteer pro-bono attorneys at law firm offices.*

*C. The referral system referred to at #2 above has led to nineteen (19) private counsel representation. In addition, several attorneys have taken Pro Bono cases without the necessity of using the Pro Bono screening/referral process.*

*D. In Luna County, Pro Bono Week resulted in a phone bank which assisted approximately 20 people.*

**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.**

*Aside from the impediment referred to at #4 above, the largest obstacle is the very small number of attorneys in relation to our indigent population and the minimal number of attorneys who "specialize" in subjects that are needed for indigent clients.*

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

*We are still growing as our attorney base has been recently growing and we are seeking more involvement from attorneys in Luna County.*

*We need to increase public educational programs.*

**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?**

*See Answer to #5 above.*

**9. New Mexico Pro Bono Week was initiated as part of the national 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

*We have previously provided the ATJ Commission with our public and attorney surveys. We have also provided our Public Service News Release which was published prior to Pro Bono Week. We also secured Proclamations in celebration of Pro Bono Week from:*

- A. The Town of Silver City;*
- B. The City of Bayard;*

- C. The Town of Hurley; and*
- D. The Grant County Commission.*

*The Proclamations are on file with the Pro Bono Coordinator.*