

**Access to Justice Commission
Ninth 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.

Chairman: **Honorable Teddy L. Hartley**
Ninth Judicial District Judge
(575) 742-7506
pordtlh@nmcourts.gov

Members:

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9th Judicial District Judge
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- 1. 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?**

Our committee has not yet developed specific formal pro bono programs for our attorneys in Curry and Roosevelt Counties. However our Legal Aid Office, physically located in Clovis continues to provide legal services to this population. This need is also partially met by Law Access New Mexico, a statewide telephone legal advice service to low-income New Mexico residents.

- 2. 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?**

We have not formed our Volunteer Attorney Pool. We have reviewed survey instruments utilized by other judicial districts in the state and are considering whether to administer such a tool, and if so, what localization should be done to best capture the thoughts of our attorney base as to what types of legal assistance they would be willing to provide and which type of forum (clinics, seminars, workshops, direct representation, etc.) would work best for them.

Several of our attorneys participated in our Pro Bono Week sponsored event, "Free Legal Information Day". Jon McPhee presented a public seminar addressing Land-lord Tenant Issues; Angelina Baca conducted a public seminar addressing Custody Issues (Joint, Legal & Primary Custody); and Beth Lindsey conducted a public seminar addressing Wills, Trusts, Estates, Probates & Powers of Attorney.

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

We have not developed programs to a point that we've requested assistance from local pro bono attorneys. While we do not have formal programs in place, the attorneys in Curry and Roosevelt Counties continue to provide pro bono assistance to our low income population. In 2008, two-thirds of our attorneys (34) reported donating an average of 55 pro bono hours each.

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

As mentioned in response to Number 3 above, we have no formal programs, as yet. However, our low-income population did benefit from the public seminars conducted

during New Mexico Pro Bono Week. See response to Number 7, following. We did not quantify attendance.

5. 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.

Our committee needs to refocus on developing structured opportunities for our attorney base to provide pro bono assistance in a manner in which they are capable and comfortable. Once that is accomplished, we can better identify and work around impediments as they develop.

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

Our goal is to grow.

7. 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. We sponsored "Free Legal Information Day", during which two workshops were conducted in Clovis, (1) *Landlord-Tenant Issues* and (2) *Custody Issues, Joint, Legal & Primary Custody*; and one workshop in Portales, *Wills, Trusts, Estates, Probates & Powers of Attorney*. Each was held at the respective County Courthouse.

These efforts to increase the awareness of the need for free legal services to our low income population and the subsequent provisioning of such services was fully endorsed by both cities' leadership, illustrated by the issuance of Proclamations by the mayors of both Clovis and Portales. The functions were not as well attended as we'd hoped, as we did not get adequate public notice out timely. However, routine legal functions such as these would be very beneficial to our low income population and our committee will consider including similar functions in our ongoing pro bono plan.

In addition to the public seminars, the committee hosted a recognition luncheon for its pro bono attorneys on the campus of Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. The luncheon, with special guest New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Charles Daniels, was well attended by local attorneys and judges. Special recognition was given to two of our local attorneys for their outstanding contribution to pro bono work: Beth Lindsey and Fred Tharp.

Following the luncheon was the presentation of the formal CLE developed especially for this week, "*Professionalism Presentation in Honor of Pro Bono Week*". Judge Tatum presented the CLE to an audience of 15 local attorneys.

- 8. 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.

- 9. 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.**

Attachments are as follows:

- a. Free Legal Information Day Flyer
- b. City of Portales Proclamation
- c. City of Clovis Proclamation

Free Legal Information Day

FREE!

October 28, 2009

FREE!

**Learn about Landlord-Tenant law, Custody
Issues, or Wills, Trusts and Estates!**

Attend a free seminar in
Clovis or Portales!

Clovis



Landlord-Tenant Issues
October 28, 2009 at Noon
Curry County Courthouse,
700 N. Main, Clovis
Seminar presented by
Attorney Jon McPhee

Portales

Wills, Trusts, Estates, Probates
& Powers of Attorney
October 28, 2009 at Noon
Roosevelt County Courthouse,
109 West First, Portales
Seminar presented by
Attorney Beth Lindsey

Clovis

Custody Issues, - Joint, Legal
& Primary Custody
October 28, 2009 at Noon
Curry County Courthouse,
700 N. Main, Clovis
Seminar presented by
Attorney Randall M. Harris

Sponsored by the Pro Bono
Committee and the Attorneys of the
Curry/Roosevelt County Bar
Association

City Manager
JOE C. THOMAS

City Attorney
DAVID F. RICHARDS

Post Office Box 766
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CLOVIS CITY COMMISSION

Mayor
GAYLA BRUMFIELD

Mayor Pro-Tem
RANDAL S. CROWDER

Commissioners
CHRIS BRYANT
RON EDWARDS
ISIDRO GARCIA
JUAN F. GARZA
ROBERT SANDOVAL
FRED VAN SOELEN
LEN VOHS

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS;** access to Justice is a fundamental and essential right in a Democratic society; and
- WHEREAS;** many people cannot afford the high cost of legal representation and cannot proceed on their own without an attorney; and
- WHEREAS;** legal services agencies, the State Bar of New Mexico, and Local Bar Associations throughout New Mexico have enlisted the services of volunteer attorneys to provide valuable legal services to those in-need; and
- WHEREAS;** in New Mexico, volunteer attorneys donate thousands of hours of pro bono time each year; and
- WHEREAS;** the innumerable contributions of volunteer attorneys from both the public and private sector; enable many people to obtain legal assistance they could not otherwise obtain; and
- WHEREAS;** during October 25-31, 2009, businesses, government agencies and community organizations will be celebrating "New Mexico Pro Bono Week", and
- WHEREAS;** the Supreme Court of New Mexico has declared the week of October 26th to be Pro Bono Week in the Courts of New Mexico and has recognized the importance of volunteer attorneys in providing legal services to low-income people.

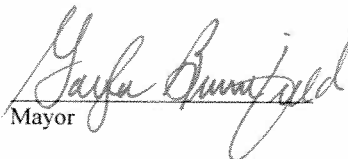
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gayla Brumfield, Mayor of the City of Clovis and on behalf of the City Commission, declare October 25-31, 2009 as

"NEW MEXICO PRO BONO WEEK"

in the City of Clovis and urge all members of our community to recognize the contributions of our legal community to help those most in need.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Clovis to be affixed this 15th day of October in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.




Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: PRO BONO PUBLICO (USUALLY SHORTENED TO PRO BONO) IS A PHRASE DERIVED FROM LATIN MEANING “FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD” AND LAWYERS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE RECOMMENDED UNDER AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ABA) ETHICAL RULES TO CONTRIBUTE AT LEAST FIFTY HOURS OF PRO BONO SERVICE PER YEAR; AND

WHEREAS: ACCESS TO JUSTICE IS A FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL RIGHT IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY; AND

WHEREAS: LEGAL SERVICES AGENCIES, THE STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO AND LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS THROUGHOUT NEW MEXICO HAVE ENLISTED THE SERVICES OF VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS TO PROVIDE VALUABLE LEGAL SERVICES TO THOSE IN-NEED; AND

WHEREAS: THE INNUMERABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS FROM BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR, ENABLE MANY PEOPLE TO OBTAIN LEGAL ASSISTANVE THEY COULD NOT OTHERWISE OBTAIN; AND

WHEREAS: THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW MEXICO HAS DECLARED THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 26TH TO BE PRO BONO WEEK IN THE COURTS OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND HAS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS IN PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE;

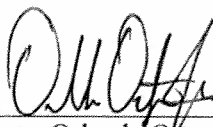
NOW THEREFORE, I, ORLANDO ORTEGA, JR., MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PORTALES, NEW MEXICO DO HEREBY DECLARE THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 25TH – 30TH, 2009 AS:

“PRO BONO WEEK IN PORTALES, NEW MEXICO”

TO COINCIDE WITH THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND THE NATION AND DECLARE THAT RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION IS IN ORDER THROUGHOUT THE CITY AS OVER HALF OF NEW MEXICO ATTORNEYS REPORTED DONATING A TOTAL OF 249,463 PRO BONO HOURS (AVERAGE OF 62 HOURS EACH) IN 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND, AND CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF PORTALES, NEW MEXICO, THIS 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2009.





Mayor Orlando Ortega, Jr.