

**JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEE
2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

- I. CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP AND/OR REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION CHANGES** - Please provide any changes in committee membership from the membership presented in the circuit pro bono plan. **PLEASE INCLUDE AN ADDRESS AND CURRENT PHONE NUMBER FOR THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON. THANK YOU.**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
<u>Phil Beverly, Esq. (chair)*</u>	<u>Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association</u>
<u>Marcia Lockhart</u>	<u>Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc.</u>
Information received from:	
Clarkson Cantrell	Guardian Ad Litem Program
Mary K. Wimsett	Guardian Ad Litem Program
Robin Davis	Alternative Dispute Resolution
Janet Hearn	County Court Mediation Program
Arlene Huszar	Family Courts
Majeedah Murad	Josiah T. Walls Bar Association
Shelly Beach	Young Lawyers Division

*CHAIRPERSON

II. TYPES OF PRO BONO SERVICE BEING PROVIDED -

A. SPECIAL PRO BONO SERVICE PROJECTS - Please briefly describe any special pro bono service projects such as community education programs, pro se clinics, etc., for the period January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005:

PROJECT

Rights (RCR)- Josiah T. Walls Bar Association participated in a RCR workshop held by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission in January; ongoing workshops were held and training packets were distributed to interested members; 7+ attorneys and 38 law student volunteers were involved.

Disaster Outreach - Josiah T. Walls Bar Association distributed information on hurricane preparedness at the Springhill Neighborhood Festival (2 attorneys)

4 attorneys participated with Josiah T. Walls Bar Association in this project.

4. Holiday Stocking Project - The Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association along with the Young Lawyers Division gathered and donated holiday stockings & gifts to all students at a 2 needy public schools, residents of a shelter for homeless veterans and to homebound elderly through Meals on Wheels.
5. Habitat for Humanity House - The Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association along with the Young Lawyers Division built a home through Habitat for Humanity.
6. Guardian Ad Litem Mediation - volunteer attorneys mediated adult criminal cases (infrequently).
7. Small Claims Clinic - volunteer attorneys participate in a small claims clinic held twice a month at Three Rivers Legal Services.
8. Teen Court - Two Judges and three attorneys participate in the Teen Court Project coordinated by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.
9. Family Courts - one attorney regularly represents teenage girls seeking judicial waiver of parental notification of termination of pregnancy

B. JUDICIAL AND GOVERNMENT LAWYER PARTICIPATION IN PRO BONO SERVICE - If not described above as a special project, please describe any pro bono service being provided by members of the judiciary, their staff and government lawyers as well as any special support services being provided to enable their participation:

PRO BONO SERVICE

SUPPORT SERVICES

N/A

C. CORPORATION ATTORNEY PARTICIPATION IN PRO BONO SERVICE - If not described above as special project, please describe any pro bono service being provided by corporation attorneys as well as any special support services being provided to enable their participation:

PRO BONO SERVICE

SUPPORT SERVICES

N/A

D. LAW FIRM COLLECTIVE SATISFACTION PROJECTS - Please provide the name of the law firm, and a brief description of the collective satisfaction project:

LAW FIRM

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

N/A

III. TRAINING PROVIDED TO PRO BONO ATTORNEYS - Please provide a brief description of any training provided to pro bono attorneys from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005:

TRAINING PROVIDED

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Guardian Ad Litem Project | Training provided to a few attorneys; currently a shorter version of the training is available for attorneys |
| 2. | Mediation | Provides Continuing Mediator Education (CME) programs eight times each year which is required for mediators to retain state certification |
| 3. | Restoration of Civil Rights | Several trainings held to volunteers who help individuals seeking to have their civil rights restored. |

[MAKE COPIES OF THIS SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL REPORTING]

IV. RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES - Please describe any recruitment activities carried out from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 and if available, the results from the recruitment activity:

RECRUITING ACTIVITY

RESULTS

Had an article in the 8th Circuit Bar newsletter recruiting volunteers for the fostering independent project; articles from the statewide GAL in the Florida Bar News.

Sent out a letter to all members of the 8th Circuit Bar both recruiting volunteers and seeking attorney "buy out" contributions.

V. RECOGNITION ACTIVITIES - Please describe any pro bono service recognition activities or events carried out from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005:

Tobias Simon/Florida Bar
President's Pro Bono Service

A committee is formed each year to
nominate an attorney for the
award

Award

Mediation Program

Volunteers were recognized at a
Holiday Appreciation Luncheon in
December; volunteers are given an
appreciation gift during National
Volunteer Appreciation Week in April.

VI. COMPELLING PRO BONO SERVICE STORIES - Please provide two or three brief examples of a person or group that was significantly helped through pro bono service:

1. Client's home was damaged by a neighbor's tree. Incident was related to improper care of the tree rather than storm related. All involved, especially the pro bono attorney, were surprised and pleased with the results. Of particular interest is that this attorney first started on this case as a law clerk in his firm and when he became an associate, he took the case that no one else in his firm had any hope that it would go anywhere.
2. Client purchased a life insurance policy covering herself and her two children but things became confused and client was actually overpaying the insurance; with the assistance of a volunteer attorney, client's insurance company admitted that client was correct in her interpretation of coverage and premium payments and her overpayment was reimbursed. Client had a friend with a similar problem and volunteer attorney resolved that problem too.
3. 76-year-old Client and her 82-year-old sister own home together and had a problem with a roofer who did not complete a job. Client and her now deceased husband entered into a contract with a licensed roofer to re-roof their house (she had a tar & gravel roof, but was talked into getting a rolled roof which was cheaper than the existing roof). Client paid the money and the work was done in one day. Shortly after, client discovered that a bubble had formed above one section of the roof. Attempts to contact the contractor were futile. Volunteer attorney negotiated settlement with roofer who returned 100% of disputed damages and client was able to get the roof fixed properly.

VII. OTHER - Please provide any other information that you feel would be helpful in accurately describing the pro bono service activities and the results from those activities in your circuit:

The Eighth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee did not meet in 2004. The fact that the committee did not meet is not a reflection on the quality of pro bono services provided in the circuit. Active volunteers are a small percent of the number of practicing attorneys, however, the area is dominated by sole practitioners who provide significant pro bono services outside the organized programs.

VIII. PRO BONO PLAN MODIFICATIONS - Please provide information on any modifications made to the circuit pro bono plan in the last year:

A. NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITY AREAS:

A needs assessment was completed by TRLS in 2001 and a client input survey was completed in 2005 (no results available); priority areas continues to be direct delivery of legal services in consumer, housing, family and public benefits in the Eighth Judicial Circuits urban and rural components. Outreach is needed to provide self-help and preventative legal information to the poor population.

B. SHORT TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (NEXT 6 MONTHS) TO ADDRESS PRIORITY LEGAL NEEDS AND ENCOURAGE LAWYERS TO PARTICIPATE:

Increase number of volunteer attorneys; provide special projects to include volunteer attorneys with little poverty law expertise; train attorneys for advice and brief service assistance.

Rejuvenate the committee

C. LONG TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, IF DIFFERENT FROM 1994 REPORTING, (NEXT 2 YEARS) TO ADDRESS PRIORITY LEGAL NEEDS AND ENCOURAGE LAWYERS TO PARTICIPATE:

Increase awareness of the need for legal assistance to the poor; increase numbers of attorneys providing volunteer hours and financial donations to the service providers

D. RESOURCES COMMITTED BY CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS:

No change

E. SUPPORT FOR PRO BONO ACTIVITIES:

No change

F. OTHER:

Kent R. Spuhler, Director
Voluntary Pro Bono Attorney Plan
Florida Legal Services
2121 Delta Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850/385-7900