

**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>
Robert A. Hawley (Judicial Chair) (*)	19 th Judicial Circuit - Judiciary Member
Portia B. Scott (*) 921 SE Central Parkway Stuart, Florida 34994-3904 Telephone: 772-287-0096 E-mail: scottlaw1@aol.com	Martin County Bar Association Treasure Coast Association of Women Lawyers
Steven Andrew Messer	Port St. Lucie Bar Association President/Liaison
Robert A. Gorman	Legal Aid Society of the Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County Bar Associations
Garrison Dundas	St. Lucie County Bar Association, Liaison
Portia B. Scott	Legal Aid Society of Martin County, Liaison . President Elect
Richard Levenstein	Martin County Bar Association, President
Elizabeth Maxwell	Okeechobee County Bar Association, President/Liaison
Allison Graham	Treasure Coast Association of Women Lawyers, President

Shields F. McManus

Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc.
Board Member

Wil Murphy

Indian River County Bar Association
President

Andrew Metcalf

Indian River County Bar Association,
Liaison

Erin Grall

Indian River County Bar Association, YLD
member

John Stewart

YLD, President Elect

Joel Zwyrer

St. Lucie County Bar Association,
President

Donna Graf

Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc.
Pro Bono Coordinator
FPBCA, Past President, Committee Chair

*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

1. Rave Motion Pictures, Inc.
Florida Rural Legal Services with Pro Bono volunteer, Donald Watson of Gary, Williams and Parenti, met with Seniors during matinee discount hours at the Rave Motion Pictures and gave Counsel/advice on a variety of legal topics.

Intake was conducted to save indigent Seniors a trip to the Legal Aid office for assistance with legal matters.
2. Father/Child Monthly Workshops
Martin County Bar Association Members volunteering for the Father Child Resource Center (part of the Healthy Start Coalition of Martin County) provided counsel on topics that pertain to the legal and procedural impediments to Fathers' active involvement in their children's lives.
3. In July of 2005, Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. personnel were interviewed on WPSL radio along with the Hispanic Speaking Radio station. On the program the topics were disaster grant relief and pending Pro Bono projects in the 19th judicial circuit.
4. Treasure Coast Association of Women Lawyers, Inc. in conjunction with Florida Rural Legal Services spoke at the PACE Center for Girls in Fort Pierce. The volunteer attorneys spoke to 60 attendees. The majority of the attendees were from disadvantaged homes. Topics included: Life obstacles overcome by Presenters themselves.

[copy this sheet for additional projects]

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

1. Judge Robert Hawley

Chair of the 19th Judicial Circuit Pro bono committee.

Working on "PAL" (Privately Adopted Lawyers) to recruit non-traditional Pro Bono lawyers to team with family law attorneys to increase the number of represented litigants in the 19th circuit.

2. Chief Judge William Loy Roby

Chief Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit

In collaboration with the Martin County Bar Association, Judge Roby applied for and received a grant from the Florida Bar Foundation for the development and dissemination of an educational video highlighting and emphasizing the importance of the independence of the Judiciary. This video is a prototype of those which will be shown to prospective jurors.

3. Diamond Litty.

Public Defender for the 19th Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Litty hosts a local monthly legal education show for community awareness.

C. CORPORATE 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

1. None _____

2. _____

3. _____

By filing this report, the 19th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee asks the Florida Bar for a list of those Corporate attorneys.

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
1.	None. _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
2.	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
3.	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____

By filing this report, the 19th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee seeks the list from Florida Legal Services, Inc. and the Florida Bar of those attorneys who report they have a law firm collective satisfaction project. No law firm collective satisfaction reports have been filed with this circuit committee.

[PLEASE ALSO REPORT HERE IF NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ANY LAW FIRM PROJECTS EVEN IF NOT FORMALLY A COLLECTIVE SATISFACTION PROJECT]

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. Training is provided by Judge Cynthia Cox for family law matters through a CLE in St. Lucie County.

[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:

<u>RECRUITING ACTIVITY</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
1. Florida Rural Legal Services - Annual recruitment drive/ mailing	Decline in number of attorneys participating.
2. Florida Pro Bono Coordinators-education/recruitment	Brochures provided to bar associations on ways to do pro bono in Florida.
3. "PAL" Project. Judge Robert Hawley has gone to docket calls, bar luncheons and Bar Association meetings to ask family law attorneys to "adopt" a civil trial attorney to help with the need to provide lawyers to the indigent.	

The result of the PAL project is that several Attorneys are now handling Pro Bono cases who were not prior to this project.

4. Contact was made (by the Chair of the 19th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee and the Chair of the Martin County Pro Bono Committee) and an opportunity is being developed between the IRCC mentoring program and the LEAP project.

The result is: pending.

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

Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc.- recognizing that Pro Bono participation

was less during 2005, a decision was made to publicly thank the L.B. Vocelle Pro Bono Service Award recipient at the Christmas formal of the Indian River County Bar Association dinner.

Press release was sent to multiple news organizations by Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc.

A Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc., representative attended the Tobias Simon Award presentation in Tallahassee.

Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. on behalf of the 19th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, the bar associations and Congressman Mark Foley nominated Judge Robert Hawley for the William Hoeverler Professionalism Award for Judges.

Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. on behalf of the 19th Judicial Circuit Pro bono Committee submitted a nomination for Brian Connelley for the Tobias Simon Award. He was the recipient of the L.B. Vocelle Pro Bono Service Award and the Florida Bar Presidents Pro bono service award.

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:

FRLS File 02-04914-Fp was provided a Pro Bono Attorney through the St. Lucie County Bar Association. The applicant was seeking assistance with a divorce, there is one minor child as a result of the marriage. Attorney Gene Junginger handled this case with 74.67 hours at \$200.00 per hour being donated. The case resulted in divorce, custody, child support and counseling for indigent Father.

FRLS File 04-04935-FP. This case is regarding a collection matter. The 26 year-old head of household with 2 children was barely getting by on less than \$18,000.00 per year. The household income was being improperly garnished in the amount of \$4,600.00. The measurable outcome to the indigent client was that the wrongful garnishment was set aside.

VI. 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:

Judge Robert Hawley, Portia Scott, Erin Grall and Donna Graf attended the Equal Justice Convention. It is the intent of this committee to ensure that the Pro Bono Coordinator from FRLS, along with the Judicial Chair of the Pro

bono committee, the Chief Judge and a member designee from each of the Bar Associations together continue to attend the Equal Justice Convention in an effort to further educate the "Pro Bono team members" in ways to serve the indigent of our communities and further Equal Access to Justice. To ensure this goal is met each Bar Association is asked to put aside approximately \$2,000.00 for the cost of furthering education of its Pro Bono committee members for the year 2006.

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:

Attorney participation is down.

The majority of Attorneys in the 19th circuit are not members of the traditional Voluntary Bar Associations. As such, a campaign to attract those attorneys to do Pro Bono needs to be undertaken.

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

Request letter from Justice Pariente reminding members of the Circuit Pro Bono Committee of their moral obligation to participate on said committee.

Identifying specific areas of need in our communities.

Encourage docket preference be given to Pro Bono cases.

C. LONG TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, IF DIFFERENT FROM 2004 REPORTING, (NEXT 2 YEARS) TO ADDRESS PRIORITY LEGAL NEEDS AND ENCOURAGE LAWYERS TO PARTICIPATE:

Once we have identified the specific areas of need in our community we will develop a plan to help meet those needs.

Recognizing that the most efficient and effective access to large numbers of attorneys for recruitment and recognizing that the Port St. Lucie Bar and St. Lucie County Association's membership is under representative

of the Voluntary Bar Associations circuit wide we will provide suggestions for increasing membership in those organizations.

D. SUPPORT FOR PRO BONO ACTIVITIES:

There is none.

E. OTHER:

PLEASE RETURN BY APRIL 15, 2006 TO:

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