

Pro Bono Needs Survey 2011-2012

1. Default Section

Each year, Georgia Legal Services Program develops a plan to use volunteer attorneys in its service region (154 counties in Georgia, all of Georgia except Cobb, Fulton, Gwinnett, DeKalb and Clayton counties).

We need your input.

Please help us develop our 2011-12 plan for pro bono civil legal services by answering this brief survey.

*1. Are you a lawyer licensed to practice in Georgia?

Yes

No

2. We have a shortage of lawyers in rural Georgia. Over 70% of Georgia lawyers practice in the 5-county metro Atlanta area where only 28% of low-income Georgians live. That means the burden and opportunities of pro bono service are most evident for solo and small firm lawyers beyond Atlanta.

Based on your experience, tell us what you think are the THREE most critical civil legal needs of the poor in your area.

#1 Critical
Legal
Need

#2 Critical
Legal
Need

#3 Critical
Legal
Need

3. Please tell us about any resources you are aware of in your area that may be able to help with the critical legal problems you have identified.

Examples include: family violence shelters, faith-based pro bono advocacy programs, or other lawyer-supervised or lawyer-designed programs that help people with their legal problems for free or on a reduced-fee basis.

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4. Legal clinics offer an opportunity for lawyers to participate for a short 2-3 hour period on a quarterly or semi-annual basis without commitment to accepting a court case.

Some of these "clinics" may be court-based, and help courts manage the overwhelming pro se caseloads, especially in the area of family law.

Please list any "legal information" or "legal advice" clinics in your area.

5. During a calendar year, does your local voluntary bar association offer any of the following programs?

- Pro se or "ask-a-lawyer" clinics?
- Pro bono legal assistance clinics (ex. wills, landlord/tenant)?
- Continuing legal education programs on pro bono issues?
- Other (please specify)

6. Does your local voluntary bar association

- have a pro bono committee?
- host luncheon programs or special events?
- recognize lawyers for pro bono and/or community service?
- have a civil pro bono legal services program or project of its own?
- Other (please specify)

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7. Does your law firm

- have a written pro bono policy or statement for its lawyers?
- sponsor its own pro bono project or program?
- have a pro bono committee?
- host luncheon programs or special events?
- recognize its lawyers for pro bono and/or community service?
- Other (please specify)

8. Do you provide pro bono services in conjunction with your local office of Georgia Legal Services Program?

- Yes
- No

9. If you have provided pro bono services through your local office of Georgia Legal Services, have you taken advantage of these perks?

- Free or reduced-cost CLE programs
- Free website practice materials
- \$150 CLE voucher for having handled 3 or more pro bono cases in a calendar year
- Honor Roll mention

10. Please give us your Bar Number if we may contact you for more information.

For more information on pro bono for your law firm or local bar association, contact Mike Monahan, at mikem@gabar.org.

To locate pro bono resources, outlines, manuals, training and more, visit www.GeorgiaAdvocates.org/GOJC.