

Pro Bono Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A survey of 2007 pro bono services by Texas attorneys was administered in interviews of 500 attorney members of the State Bar of Texas. The main findings were as follows:

- Some 58.0 percent of active in-state attorneys provided an average of 48.5 hours of pro bono legal or indirect legal services that benefited the poor in 2007. Based on that average, it is estimated that there was a total of 1.80 million to 2.29 million hours of free legal or indirect services to the poor performed in 2007.
- Some 29.7 percent of attorneys provided an average of 54.0 hours of substantially reduced fee legal services to the poor in 2007. The sum total of hours was estimated to be 1.02 million to 1.31 million hours of substantially reduced legal services to the poor in 2007.
- The largest percentage of respondents who performed free legal services provided services in civil matters (79 percent). This compared to smaller percentages of respondents who provided free legal services to charitable, public-interest organizations (37 percent); to simplify or, increase availability and quality of legal services (24.8 percent); in criminal matters (19 percent); by unsolicited court appointment (13 percent); and for legislative, administrative or systems advocacy (8 percent).
- Financial contributions or paying out-of-pocket expenses related to legal services to the poor was done by 33.3 percent of attorneys. The average amount contributed by those attorneys was \$677.32 in 2007. The sum total of dollars was estimated to be \$14.4 million to \$18.4 million.