STATE BAR OF TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Volunteer Legal Services to the Poor 2002 Voluntary Reporting
Final Report: October 2003

The following data is taken from the *2002 Voluntary Reporting of Volunteer Legal Services to the Poor* form, which was included with the *2003 Annual Access to Justice Statement*, mailed in March 2003 to all active attorney members of the Bar.[1]

Response Rate Summary

Out of 71,235 total forms mailed to active attorney Bar members, 27,371 were completed[2] and returned, resulting in an overall response rate of 38.4%.

Total number of forms mailed to active attorney Bar members: 71,235

Number of returned forms:	63,665[3]	(89.4% of mailed forms)
Number of completed forms	27,371	(43.0% of returned forms)
Number with all values coded "0"	4,701	(17.2% of completed forms)
Number of entirely blank forms:	36,294	(57.0% of returned forms)
Number of non-returned forms:	7,570	(10.6% of mailed forms)

Results

Data includes respondents who reported "0" for the item(s), but excludes respondents who left the item(s) blank.

	Legal Services to the Poor Hours (n = 25,185)	**Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor Hours (n = 18,222)**	**Financial Contributions (n = 15,405)**
Percentage reporting non-zero hours/financial contributions	77.6%	58.0%	45.6%
Percentage reporting 50 or more hours	23.4%	21.1%	Not Applicable
Mean hours and dollars reported	35 hours	36 hours	$302
Median hours and dollars	20 hours	10 hours	$0
Percentage leaving item blank (based on total forms received: n = 63,665)	**60.4%**	**71.4%**	**75.8%**

Pro Bono Reporting among Active Attorney Members
October 1996 through January 2003

	Fifth Annual Reporting 6/96 – 5/97	Sixth Annual Reporting* 6/97 – 5/98	Seventh Annual Reporting* 6/98 – 5/99	Eighth Annual Reporting* 6/99 – 5/00	Ninth Annual Reporting+ 2000	Tenth Annual Reporting+ 2001	Eleventh Annual Reporting+ 2002
Total Forms Mailed to Active Attorney Bar Members	62,468	63,782	64,919	64,556	67,684	69,241	71,235
Total Completed Pro Bono Forms	21,707	13,601	11,214	13,601	26,171	26,216	25,185
Percent reporting non-zero hours	80.6%	79.3%	79.9%	84.2%	74.9%	76.5%	77.6%
Percent with 50 or more hours	35.6%	29.5%	28.1%	30.5%	20.1%	23.4%	23.4%
Mean pro bono hours**	42.0	37.4	39.9	43.1	30.2	35.3	35.3
Median pro bono hours**	25.5	20.5	20.0	20.0	15.0	20.0	20.0
Pro Bono Reporting Response Rate* **	34.7%	21.3%	17.3%	21.1%	38.7%	37.9%	35.4%

* Please note that the figures reported (beginning with the "total completed pro bono forms") for the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Annual Reporting periods include ***only those active attorney State Bar members who returned the Annual Voluntary Reporting form with Legal Services for the Poor filled in*** (including those who entered zero hours for this category). In this table, those reporting only Volunteer Legal Services or Community Service hours are excluded in order to allow some kind of comparison with prior years.

** Includes those reporting 0 hours.

*** Response rate is calculated by dividing the total completed pro bono forms by the total number of forms mailed to active attorney members of the Bar.

\+ Reporting form for 2000-2002 no longer included the categories of Volunteer Legal Services or Community Service hours. The form was revised to request information on: Legal Services to the Poor ("free legal services to the poor and free indirect legal services that substantially benefit the poor"), Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor ("legal services provided at a substantially reduced fee that benefit the poor"), and Financial Contributions ("financial contributions and/or actual out-of-pocket expenses related to legal services to the poor"). The figures reported for 2000-2002 above are for the category of "Legal Services to the Poor" only.

Profile of Respondents Who Completed Forms in 2002: Volunteer Legal Services to the Poor by Demographic Category[4]

		Percentage of All Completed Forms[5] (n = 27,371)	Legal Services to the Poor Median/Mean Hours (n = 25,185)		Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor Median/Mean Hours (n = 18,222)		Financial Contributions Median/Mean Dollars (n = 15,405)	
			Median	**Mean**	**Median**	**Mean**	**Median**	**Mean**
All Respondents			20	35	10	36	$0	$302
Gender	Male	*71%*	20	36	15	38	$0	$342
	Female	*29%*	15	33	0	31	$0	$214
Race/Ethnicity[6]	Caucasian/Anglo	*85%*	20	34	10	34	$0	$299
	African-American/Black	*5%*	20	40	10	37	$0	$217
	Hispanic/Latino	*7%*	20	43	20	48	$0	$255
	Asian/Pacific Islander	*2%*	15	36	0	30	$0	$248
	Native American Indian	*<1%*	20	35	23	49	$0	$239
	Other	*1%*	17	57	10	52	$0	$577
Years Licensed[7]	2 years or less	*11%*	10	28	0	19	$0	$78
	3 to 6 years	*14%*	15	30	0	30	$0	$126
	7 to 10 years	*13%*	18	31	10	39	$0	$207
	11 to 15 years	*14%*	20	37	12	38	$0	$331
	16 to 20 years	*13%*	20	38	15	41	$30	$389
	21 to 25 years	*12%*	20	41	20	41	$50	$453
	Over 25 years	*22%*	20	39	20	42	$60	$477
	Median years licensed	*15 years*						
Age	21 to 25 years	*<1%*	0	15	0	3	$0	$14
	26 to 30 years	*9%*	10	28	0	17	$0	$57
	31 to 35 years	*14%*	12	29	0	27	$0	$168
	36 to 40 years	*13%*	15	29	5	32	$0	$199
	41 to 45 years	*14%*	20	36	10	38	$0	$302
	46 to 50 years	*16%*	20	40	15	40	$20	$388
	51 to 55 years	*14%*	20	39	20	43	$50	$434
	56 to 60 years	*10%*	20	39	20	48	$60	$394
	61 to 65 years	*5%*	25	41	20	48	$50	$548
	over 65 years	*6%*	20	43	15	42	$40	$471
	Median Age	*46 years*						

		Percentage of All Completed Forms[5] (n = 27,371)	Legal Services to the Poor Median/Mean Hours (n = 25,185)		Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor Median/Mean Hours (n = 18,222)		Financial Contributions Median/Mean Dollars (n = 15,405)	
			Median	**Mean**	**Median**	**Mean**	**Median**	**Mean**
County Location[8] (in-state only)	Urban	*94%*	20	35	10	36	$0	$305
	Rural	*6%*	30	47	30	60	$50	$417
Primary Occupation[9]	Private Law Practice	*75%*	20	40	20	46	$50	$392
	Government	*8%*	0	26	0	14	$0	$52
	Judiciary	*1%*	0	25	0	10	$0	$122
	Law Faculty	*1%*	20	47	0	18	$100	$213
	House Counsel	*7%*	5	17	0	7	$0	$155
	Other Law Related	*3%*	10	37	0	13	$0	$184
	Other Non-Law Related	*2%*	0	19	0	9	$0	$97
	Retired or Not Working	*1%*	0	20	0	9	$0	$149
	Unemployed: Looking for Work	*1%*	4	38	0	12	$0	$27
	Unemployed: Not Looking for Work	*1%*	0	17	0	11	$0	$123
Law Firm Size[10]	Sole Practitioner	*42%*	25	47	30	61	$100	$371
	2 to 5 attorneys	*24%*	25	43	25	50	$100	$564
	6 to 10 attorneys	*7%*	20	32	10	30	$0	$391
	11 to 24 attorneys	*7%*	15	29	5	23	$0	$389
	25 to 40 attorneys	*3%*	20	25	4	16	$0	$254
	41 to 60 attorneys	*2%*	16	29	0	21	$0	$119
	More than 60 attorneys	*14%*	20	35	0	11	$20	$331
	Median Firm Size	*3 attorneys*						

Endnote:

[1] Note that this form was in the same format as the form mailed in 2001 and 2002: 1) It was included on the *Annual Access to Justice Statement* that also requested attorneys' IOLTA status; 2) The three categories for which information was requested were: Legal Services to the Poor ("free legal services to the poor and free indirect legal services that substantially benefit the poor"), Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor ("legal services provided at a substantially reduced fee that benefit the poor"), and Financial Contributions ("financial contributions and/or actual out-of-pocket expenses related to legal services to the poor"); and 3) It was accompanied by a letter signed by all of the Supreme Court Justices specifically encouraging attorneys to complete and return the form.

[2] Completed forms are defined as those forms with at least one of the three items filled in. Thus, completed forms include those with "0" as the number of volunteer service hours and/or financial contributions but exclude forms with all three items left blank.

[3] Duplicate records (records containing the same barcard number) in the data were reviewed and eliminated.

[4] The data below includes those who reported "0" for the item, but excludes those who left it blank.

[5] Some columns may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

[6] Race/ethnicity was known for 95 percent of the active Bar membership in December 2002.

[7] Based on year first licensed in any jurisdiction.

[8] Fifty-eight out of 254 Texas counties are classified by the U.S. Department of Commerce as components of a metropolitan area.

[9] Occupation and law firm size figures are estimates as these demographics are unknown for some attorneys.

[10] Data for firm size is for private practitioners only.

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