STATE BAR OF TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Volunteer Legal Services to the Poor 2000 Voluntary Reporting Report: December 2001

The following data is taken from the *Volunteer Legal Services to the Poor 2000 Voluntary Reporting Form*, which was included with the *2001 Annual Access to Justice Statement*, mailed in March 2001 to all active attorney members of the Bar.[1]

Total Forms:

Total forms mailed to active attorney Bar members:	67,684
Total forms received:	57,797[2]
Percentage of total forms returned blank:	50.7%
Percentage of total forms returned completed[3]:	49.3%
Percentage of total forms returned with all fields reported as "zero":	9.4%

Completed Forms:

Number of **completed** forms returned:	28,478
Response rate for completed forms (out of **total** forms mailed out):	42.1%
Percentage of completed forms returned with all fields reported as "zero":	19%

	Results Excluding Those Leaving Item Blank		
	Legal Services to the Poor Hours (n = 26,171)	**Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor Hours (n = 19,649)**	**Financial Contributions (n = 16,880)**
Percentage reporting any hours or financial contributions	74.9%	54.8%	42.8%
Percentage reporting 50 or more hours	20.1%	18.4%	Not Applicable
Mean hours and dollars reported (including 0 hours)	30 hours	31 hours	$231
Median hours and dollars	15 hours	6 hours	$0
Percentage leaving item blank (based on total forms: n = 57,797)	54.7 %	66.0%	70.8%

Pro Bono Reporting among Active Attorney Members, June 1995 through January 2001

	Fourth Annual Reporting 6/95 – 5/96	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
Total Forms Mailed to Active Attorney Bar Members	60,797	62,468	63,782	64,919	64,556	67,684
Total Completed Pro Bono Forms	24,407	21,707	13,601	11,214	13,601	26,171
Percent reporting any hours	80.3%	80.6%	79.3%	79.9%	84.2%	74.9%
Percent with 50 or more hours	25.6%	26.8%	29.5%	28.1%	30.5%	20.1%
Mean pro bono hours**	40.4	42.0	37.4	39.9	43.1	30.2
Median pro bono hours**	25.0	25.5	20.5	20.0	20.0	15.0
Pro Bono Reporting Response Rate* **	40.1%	34.7%	21.3%	17.3%	21.1%	38.7%

* 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.

\+ See endnote #1 for discussion of changes in reporting form.

Profile of Completed Forms 2000:
Volunteer Legal Services to the Poor by Statistical Category[4]

		Percentage of All Completed Forms (n = 28,478)	Legal Services to the Poor Median/ Mean Hours (n = 26,171)		Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor Median/ Mean Hours (n = 19,649)		Financial Contributions Median/Mean Dollars (n = 16,880)	
			Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
All Respondents			15	30	6	31	$0	$231
Gender	Male	*72%*	15	32	10	33	$0	$258
	Female	*28%*	10	26	0	27	$0	$174
Race/Ethnicity	Caucasian/Anglo	*87%*	15	29	5	30	$0	$228
	African-American/Black	*4%*	20	36	11	38	$10	$264
	Hispanic/Latino	*7%*	20	36	15	42	$0	$250
	Asian/Pacific Islander	*1%*	10	28	0	26	$0	$114
	Native American Indian	*<1%*	20	29	13	37	$0	$291
	Other	*1%*	15	36	5	36	$0	$167
Years Licensed	2 years or less	*10%*	8	23	0	17	$0	$94
	3 to 6 years	*14%*	12	25	0	25	$0	$113
	7 to 10 years	*14%*	15	29	5	30	$0	$189
	11 to 15 years	*14%*	15	31	10	34	$0	$251
	16 to 20 years	*14%*	17	32	10	36	$0	$304
	21 to 25 years	*13%*	20	32	12	35	$0	$284
	Over 25 years	*21%*	20	36	15	37	$15	$349
	Median years licensed	*15 years*						
Age	21 to 25 years	*<1%*	0	12	0	6	$0	$9
	26 to 30 years	*9%*	8	23	0	15	$0	$85
	31 to 35 years	*13%*	10	23	0	23	$0	$126
	36 to 40 years	*14%*	14	28	3	28	$0	$200
	41 to 45 years	*16%*	15	31	10	34	$0	$264
	46 to 50 years	*16%*	20	32	10	37	$0	$286
	51 to 55 years	*14%*	20	36	15	36	$10	$290
	56 to 60 years	*8%*	20	35	20	42	$10	$326
	61 to 65 years	*4%*	20	35	15	36	$10	$368
	over 65 years	*5%*	15	37	10	38	$0	$314
	Median Age	*45 years*						

		Percentage of All Completed Forms (n = 28,478)	Legal Services to the Poor Median/ Mean Hours (n = 26,171)		Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor Median/ Mean Hours (n = 19,649)		Financial Contributions Median/Mean Dollars (n = 16,880)	
			Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
County Location	Urban	*94%*	15	30	8	31	$0	$235
	Rural	*6%*	25	44	25	55	$20	$321
Primary Occupation[5]	Private Law Practice	*73%*	20	36	20	41	$30	$313
	Government	*9%*	0	17	0	12	$0	$73
	Judiciary	*1%*	0	22	0	7	$0	$95
	Law Faculty	*1%*	15	39	0	12	$50	$268
	House Counsel	*9%*	2	14	0	4	$0	$116
	Other Law Related	*3%*	10	28	0	13	$0	$102
	Other Non-Law Related	*3%*	0	16	0	5	$0	$99
	Retired or Not Working	*1%*	0	18	0	4	$0	$111
	Unemployed: Looking for Work	*1%*	8	26	0	18	$0	$50
	Unemployed: Not Looking for Work	*1%*	0	15	0	2	$0	$19
Law Firm Size[6]	Sole Practitioner	*41%*	25	41	25	56	$50	$320
	2 to 5 attorneys	*26%*	21	38	20	42	$50	$389
	6 to 10 attorneys	*8%*	20	31	10	27	$10	$288
	11 to 24 attorneys	*7%*	15	27	5	22	$0	$223
	25 to 40 attorneys	*3%*	12	23	0	20	$0	$213
	41 to 60 attorneys	*2%*	15	29	0	14	$0	$304
	More than 60 attorneys	*14%*	15	29	0	9	$0	$252
	Median Firm Size	*3 attorneys*						

Endnote:

[1] Note that this form differs from prior volunteer legal services forms in several important regards: 1) It was included on the *Annual Access to Justice Statement* that also requested attorneys' IOLTA status and was mailed to the active attorney members of the Bar in March of 2001, rather than with the May Dues Statement, as in prior years; 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"). [For the previous three years, attorneys were asked to report on Volunteer Legal Services and Community Service hours, as well as Legal Services for the Poor hours.]; 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] Duplicate records (containing the same barcard number) in the data were reviewed and eliminated.

[3] Included in the population of those who "completed the form" are those who reported zero as the number of volunteer service hours and financial contributions for the reporting period. Not included in this population are those who simply returned the form with all categories left blank (29,319 forms).

[4] The numbers below "(n =)"are inclusive of those who filled in a category with a zero, but exclude those who left it blank.

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

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

For more information, contact:

State Bar of Texas
Department of Research & Analysis
P.O. Box 12487
Austin, TX 78711-2487
800.204.2222 or 512.463.1463, ext. 2024
research@texasbar.com
www.texasbar.com