STATE BAR OF TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Volunteer Legal Services to the Poor 2000 Voluntary Reporting Report: September 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 Hours (n = 26,171)	Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor Median Hours (n = 19,649)	Financial Contributions Median Dollars (n = 16,880)
All Respondents			15	6	$0
Gender	Male	*72%*	15	10	$0
	Female	*28%*	10	0	$0
Race/Ethnicity	Caucasian/Anglo	*87%*	15	5	$0
	African-American/Black	*4%*	20	11	$10
	Hispanic/Latino	*7%*	20	15	$0
	Asian/Pacific Islander	*1%*	10	0	$0
	Native American Indian	*<1%*	20	13	$0
	Other	*1%*	15	5	$0
Years Licensed	2 years or less	*10%*	8	0	$0
	3 to 6 years	*14%*	12	0	$0
	7 to 10 years	*14%*	15	5	$0
	11 to 15 years	*14%*	15	10	$0
	16 to 20 years	*14%*	17	10	$0
	21 to 25 years	*13%*	20	12	$0
	Over 25 years	*21%*	20	15	$15
	Median years licensed	*15 years*			
Age	21 to 25 years	*<1%*	0	0	$0
	26 to 30 years	*9%*	8	0	$0
	31 to 35 years	*13%*	10	0	$0
	36 to 40 years	*14%*	14	3	$0
	41 to 45 years	*16%*	15	10	$0
	46 to 50 years	*16%*	20	10	$0
	51 to 55 years	*14%*	20	15	$10
	56 to 60 years	*8%*	20	20	$10
	61 to 65 years	*4%*	20	15	$10
	over 65 years	*5%*	15	10	$0

		Percentage of All Completed Forms (n = 28,478)	Legal Services to the Poor Median Hours (n = 26,171)	Substantially Reduced Fee Legal Services to the Poor Median Hours (n = 19,649)	Financial Contributions Median Dollars (n = 16,880)
	Median Age	*45 years*			
County Location	Urban	*94%*	15	8	$0
	Rural	*6%*	25	25	$20
Primary Occupation[5]	Private Law Practice	*73%*	20	20	$30
	Government	*9%*	0	0	$0
	Judiciary	*1%*	0	0	$0
	Law Faculty	*1%*	15	0	$50
	House Counsel	*9%*	2	0	$0
	Other Law Related	*3%*	10	0	$0
	Other Non-Law Related	*3%*	0	0	$0
	Retired or Not Working	*1%*	0	0	$0
	Unemployed: Looking for Work	*1%*	8	0	$0
	Unemployed: Not Looking for Work	*1%*	0	0	$0
Law Firm Size[6]	Sole Practitioner	*41%*	25	25	$50
	2 to 5 attorneys	*26%*	21	20	$50
	6 to 10 attorneys	*8%*	20	10	$10
	11 to 24 attorneys	*7%*	15	5	$0
	25 to 40 attorneys	*3%*	12	0	$0
	41 to 60 attorneys	*2%*	15	0	$0
	More than 60 attorneys	*14%*	15	0	$0
	Median Firm Size	*3 attorneys*			

Endnote:

[1] Note that this form differs from prior volunteer legal services forms in two 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.

[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.

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