STATE BAR OF TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Annual Voluntary Reporting: 1999-00
Final Report
November 2000

The following data is taken from the 2000 Annual Voluntary Reporting Form, which was included with the May 2000 State Bar Dues Statement.[1] The data reported below represents active attorneys only.

Total forms mailed to active attorney Bar members:[2]	64,556
Total forms received:[3]	20,720
Number of completed forms:[4]	16,871
Response rate (for completed forms only):	26.1%
Percentage of total forms returned completely blank:	18.6%
Percentage of forms with all hours reported as "zero":	3.6%

	Results Excluding Those Leaving Item Blank		
	Legal Services to the Poor Hours (n = 13,601)	**Volunteer Legal Services Hours (n = 10,925)**	**Community Service Hours (n = 12,644)**
Percentage reporting any hours	84.2%	80.2%	90.2%
Percentage reporting 50 or more hours	30.5%	24.4%	44.8%
Mean hours reported (including 0 hours)	43 hours	36 hours	73 hours
Median hours	20 hours	20 hours	40 hours
Minimum	0	0	0
Maximum hours	2080 hours	2000 hours	2220 hours
Percentage leaving item blank (based on total forms: n = 20,720)	34.4 %	47.3%	39.0%

Pro Bono Reporting among Active Attorney Members, June 1995 through May 2000

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

* 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 format changes in the 1999-00 Annual Voluntary Reporting form.

Profile of Completed Forms 1999-2000:
Median Voluntary Service Hours by Statistical Category[5]

		Percentage of All Completed Forms (n = 16,871)	Legal Services for the Poor Median Hours (n = 13,601)	Volunteer Legal Services Median Hours (n = 10,925)	Community Service Median Hours (n = 12,644)
All Respondents			20	20	40
Gender	Male	*72%*	25	20	40
	Female	*28%*	20	15	35
Race/Ethnicity	Caucasian	*86%*	20	20	40
	African-American	*5%*	20	20	30
	Hispanic/Latino	*7%*	25	20	25
	Asian	*1%*	20	18	30
	American Indian	*<1%*	30	22	40
	Other	*1%*	25	20	30
Years Licensed	2 years or less	*10%*	17	10	20
	3 to 6 years	*15%*	20	15	25
	7 to 10 years	*14%*	20	20	40
	11 to 15 years	*14%*	24	20	50
	16 to 20 years	*14%*	25	20	50
	21 to 25 years	*13%*	25	20	50
	Over 25 years	*20%*	25	20	40
	Median years licensed	*14 years*			
Age	21 to 25 years	*<1%*	8	0	20
	26 to 30 years	*8%*	15	10	20
	31 to 35 years	*13%*	20	15	30
	36 to 40 years	*14%*	20	20	40
	41 to 45 years	*16%*	22	20	42
	46 to 50 years	*17%*	25	20	50
	51 to 55 years	*14%*	26	23	45
	56 to 60 years	*8%*	25	20	40
	61 to 65 years	*4%*	25	20	30
	over 65 years	*6%*	21	16	30
	Median Age	*45 years*			

		Percentage of All Completed Forms (n = 16,871)	Legal Services for the Poor Median Hours (n = 13,601)	Volunteer Legal Services Median Hours (n = 10,925)	Community Service Median Hours (n = 12,644)
County Location	Urban	*93%*	20	20	40
	Rural	*7%*	40	25	40
Primary Occupation[6]	Private Law Practice	*74%*	26	24	40
	Government	*9%*	10	5	30
	Judiciary	*1%*	10	0	50
	Law Faculty	*1%*	20	30	50
	House Counsel	*7%*	10	10	40
	Other Law Related	*3%*	11	10	32
	Other Non-Law Related	*3%*	1	0	30
	Retired or Not Working	*1%*	3	0	30
	Unemployed: Looking for Work	*1%*	10	20	30
	Unemployed: Not Looking for Work	*1%*	0	0	50
Law Firm Size[7]	Sole Practitioner	*44%*	35	25	40
	2 to 5 attorneys	*27%*	30	24	39
	6 to 10 attorneys	*7%*	20	20	40
	11 to 24 attorneys	*6%*	20	20	50
	25 to 40 attorneys	*3%*	20	20	40
	41 to 60 attorneys	*2%*	18	10	50
	More than 60 attorneys	*12%*	20	15	50
	Median Firm Size	*3 attorneys*			

Endnotes

[1] At the request of the Supreme Court of Texas, the format for the 1999-00 Annual Voluntary Reporting form was changed from that of prior years by highlighting Category A (Legal Services to the Poor Hours) in red shading and headlining this category with the following: "Texas Supreme Court Requested Information."

[2] A total of 76,240 statements were mailed to all Bar members, of whom 11,684 were inactive members.

[3] A total of 22,667 forms were received. Out of these, 39 forms were eliminated because they were duplicates. As Annual Voluntary Reporting forms were sent out with follow-up mailings of dues statements, some attorneys sent in more than one form. Where more than one form was returned, the most recently returned was recorded. If this could not be determined, that form which contained the most information was recorded.

A determination was made to eliminate those "outlier" records containing hours that were unrealistically high or which indicated that total job hours (not voluntary hours) were being recorded. The limit was set at 2500 or more hours; entries of 2500 or more hours within a category were categorized as missing data. After doing this, total hours per person were summed and any records that came to 2500 or more hours were deleted. Six entries were deleted after this process. Every effort was made to check for any scanning errors on the original forms before any records were changed or deleted.

Of the remaining 22,622 forms, an additional 1,902 forms were eliminated because they did not represent active attorneys.

[4] Included in the population of those who "completed the form" are those who reported zero as the number of voluntary service hours for the reporting period. Not included in this population are those who simply returned the form with all categories left blank (3,849 forms).

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

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

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

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