

2007 PRO BONO REPORT

Protection from Abuse cases continue to dominate as the largest case type handled by the Lycoming Law Association's *pro bono* attorney volunteers. In 2007 *pro bono* attorneys handled 150 Protection from Abuse matters in Lycoming County.

79 Association members handled 170 cases, 1 research project and supervised 30 clinics through the Law Association's *pro bono* program with North Penn Legal Services during calendar year 2007. The breakdown is as follows:

- 150 Protection from Abuse Cases
 - 7 Employment Matters
 - 2 Bankruptcy Cases
 - 2 Landlord Tenant Cases
 - 1 Custody Case
 - 2 Education Law Cases
 - 6 Other Civil Case Matters
 - 5 Divorce Clinics
 - 25 Custody Clinics

We did not have a CLE this year for the first time in many years. However, we hope to have at least one program this year which as always is free to volunteers.

New Initiative

In a continuing effort to thank our volunteers NPLS is in the process of being approved as an organization that is authorized to offer NAP, Neighborhood Assistance Program Tax Credits to attorneys who accept *pro bono* referrals from NPLS. Since the Lycoming Law Association mandates that its members participate in the NPLS referral program this benefit would be available to all members who qualify for these tax credits.

Pass-Through Entities such as S- Corporations and Partnerships are eligible for NAP Tax Credits. NAP Tax Credits apply to the following Pennsylvania corporate taxes:

- Corporate Net Income
- Capital Stock
- Foreign Franchise
- Bank and Trust Company Shares
- Gross Premiums
- Mutual Thrift Institutions
- Title Insurance Shares

2007 Pro Bono Report
Page 2

NAP Tax Credits will be awarded to attorneys based on an hourly rate of \$150. This rate is used statewide by legal services programs participating in NAP. If an attorney spends 12 hours on *pro bono* cases, he/ she will be given credit for 12 hours X \$150 or \$1,800. The Nap tax credit is 55% of the total hourly bill or \$1,800X 55% which is a tax credit of \$990.

Before NPLS can be approved as a NAP participant there must be a determination made that there are attorneys in our service area who are interested in using these tax credits. Thus we are asking you to fill out the enclosed Interest Form and get it back to us ASAP. There is a January deadline and it is our hope to be approved this year. This Interest Form is not a commitment to take cases but just an indication that you are interested in taking advantage of this benefit if offered.

We are attaching an overview of the Nap Tax Credit Benefits. Again in order to be approved we must show that we have a group of people who are eligible for and interested in the credit. You are certainly eligible as you already take *pro bono* referrals. Your willingness to fill out the interest form will satisfy the second requirement and hopefully enable us to be approved and able to offer you this benefit.