

TO: Lycoming Law Association
FROM: John M. Humphrey
RE: Report of Legal Services for the Indigent Committee
DATE: January 12, 2004

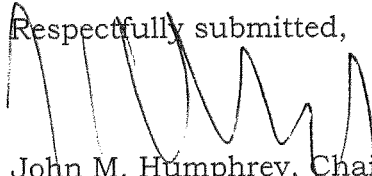
The Legal Services for the Indigent Committee of the Lycoming Law Association met four (4) times in calendar year 2003.

At the initial meeting on April 9, 2003, there was a discussion of various issues in connection with the pro bono attorney referral system for Protection From Abuse Act cases. The Committee agreed to continue monitoring this program and to work with the appropriate agencies and offices to the extent that there might be any continuing problems. Also discussed were potential projects for which funding might be available from the Lycoming Law Foundation, steps which might be taken to improve participation by younger attorneys and new admittees to the Lycoming County Bar in the pro bono panel cases, and the possibility of conducting a seminar/workshop on Protection From Abuse Act cases.

The three subsequent meetings of the Committee were concerned primarily with planning the Protection From Abuse Act seminar which was ultimately held on November 13, 2003, at the Lycoming County Commissioners conference room in the Executive Plaza. The three-hour seminar was an overwhelming success, with more than 60 LLA members and guests in attendance. The seminar was offered free of charge to LLA members and other invited persons, and attorneys were able to secure three hours of CLE credits for a nominal administrative fee. Under the primary direction of Dana Rich Collins of North Penn Legal Services, an outstanding faculty presented an interesting program covering such issues as the dynamics of domestic violence, an overview of the Protection From Abuse Act and recent cases under the Act, and local procedure and practice in PFA cases. A looseleaf notebook with helpful and relevant material was provided to each participant, and it is hoped that this important resource can be supplemented periodically as new material becomes available. The cost associated with putting on the seminar and providing the written material was paid for by a grant from the Lycoming Law Foundation in the approximate amount of \$550.00.

The PFA seminar was the initial attempt of the LLA to conduct a local, live seminar with CLE credit. It is one of the goals of the LLA to increase the offerings of such local CLE accredited seminars.

Respectfully submitted,


John M. Humphrey, Chairman
LLA Legal Services for the Indigent Committee

JMH/jss