

MEMORANDUM

To: LYCOMING LAW ASSOCIATION

From: John M. Humphrey, Esquire

Date: Thursday, January 04, 2007

**Re: ANNUAL REPORT OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

CC:

The Community Activities and Outreach Committee met two times during calendar year 2006. At the spring meeting in April, the committee considered five proposals from two community organizations for funding of law related programs. The Committee recommended to the Lycoming Law Association Foundation that it make grants to the following organizations for the programs noted:

1. North Penn Legal Services -- \$2,200.00 for videography services in connection with the preparation of a customized Lycoming County Child Custody Video. This educational video will help prepare unrepresented indigent clients for custody hearings by acclimating them to the judicial process and in so doing will benefit the already burdened legal aid community and courts so they are better able to service this client population.
2. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Lycoming County -- \$1,250.00 for the purchase of a computer system and related software. CASA provides trained volunteers to advocate in the best interests of abused/neglected children for the purpose of placing them in a safe, nurturing, and permanent home.
3. Susquehanna Home Care and Hospice -- \$250.00 for the purchase of several reference books to be used by nurses in Nurse Family Partnership

providing education and guidance to low-income single mothers and fathers, and couples in personal health, life-course development, environmental health, child safety and quality infant or child care.

The recommendations of the Committee to the Foundation were accepted, and the above noted grants were made.

At the fall meeting of the Committee in October, the Committee considered a request from the LLA Legal Services for the Indigent Committee that a Pro Bono Litigation Costs Reimbursement Fund be established by allocating a specific amount of money from the Activities Fund to be segregated in a separate sub account with Woodlands Bank for reimbursement of litigation costs expended by attorneys handling pro bono cases. The Committee decided to recommend the establishment of such a fund. Once final guidelines were approved, proposed guidelines were circulated to the Committee members for comment, and ultimately were agreed upon. The LLA Foundation has accepted the recommendation of the Committee, and the Pro Bono Litigation Cost Reimbursement Fund has been established with the allocation of \$3,000.00 to be transferred from the Communities Activities Fund to the Woodlands Bank sub account. Generally, effective January 1, 2007, litigation costs reimbursement will be considered for Lycoming County pro bono cases assigned through the LLA Pro Bono Program. While routine overhead expenditures and non-routine expenditures totaling less than \$35.00 will not be eligible for reimbursement, non-overhead expenditures in excess of \$35.00 will be considered for reimbursement by a Committee. The full details with respect to the applicable Guidelines can be found on the LLA web site.

As of October, 2006, there was approximately \$10,000.00 in the Communities Activities Fund of the Foundation. This does not include the endowment fund.

The Committee has held discussions concerning potential future projects including a program whereby new attorneys and public service positions, e.g. North Penn Legal Services Attorneys serving in the Williamsport office, be given a grant to assist in repayments on college or law school loans. Draft proposals for such a program will be considered by Committee at its spring, 2007, meeting. The LLA Executive Director sends out notices twice per year to schools and community programs in Lycoming County notifying them of the availability of grants for law related projects and the time for filing proposals for such grants. Any LLA member who provides service to a community organization which might have need for such a grant, is encouraged to suggest that a proposal be submitted. General guidelines for grant proposals and the approval thereof can be found on the LLA web site.