

MEMORANDUM

To: Lycoming Law Association
From: John M. Humphrey, Esquire
Date: Thursday, January 10, 2008
Re: Annual Report of the Legal Services for the Indigent
Committee
CC:

The Legal Services for the Indigent Committee met in November 2007. The Committee discussed various ways to improve the pro bono referral program and the delivery of legal services to the indigent. The following issues were discussed with appropriate action being taken:

- 1) For several years LLA members were able to designate that one of their arbitration fees be donated to the LLA Foundation. In 2006, the arbitration fee donation program was changed to permit members to increase their donations to the Foundation from one arbitration fee per year to two or more arbitration fees per year. Several LLA members have generously increased the number of arbitration fees they were willing to donate. The Committee discussed ways to encourage LLA members to participate in the arbitration fee donation program and to increase the number of arbitration fees they would donate.
- 2) Several of the larger law firms in Williamsport have established procedures whereby the appointment of a pro bono attorney for a Protection From Abuse Act case is handled by a designated contact person at the law firm who works with North Penn Legal Services in providing the services of the pro bono attorney from the law firm. The efficiency of these arrangements vary from law firm to law firm, and means were discussed to encourage all of the law firms participating in this program to maximize the ease with which such pro bono attorneys are requested and provided.
- 3) North Penn Legal Services and representatives of the Lycoming Law Association are considering another in the ongoing series of local, live

seminars on issues relevant to the provision of legal services for the indigent, which seminars would be without cost to attorneys on the pro bono panel and would result in CLE credit for attorneys attending such seminars. Currently, under consideration is a seminar on consumer law cases which could include predatory lending/Fair Debt Collection Act matters where there are possibilities of fee awards for attorneys handling such cases.

- 4) North Penn Legal Services would like to start a child support project and has been given some funding for such projects, which would provide brief service advice to low income clients who have child support issues. North Penn Legal Services would likely provide the advice through paralegals but could use training to be provided by LLA members who would receive pro bono service credit for the training provided. More details will be forthcoming to the extent that this project gets underway.
- 5) North Penn Legal Services announced the hiring of John Person as a staff attorney in the Williamsport office. John will be taking over many of the responsibilities which Joe Campagna filled with respect to interaction between North Penn Legal Services and the Lycoming Law Association. We welcome John Person and look forward to working with him.
- 6) The Committee wishes to acknowledge the many years of service provided by Joe Campagna to North Penn Legal Services and the predecessor organization, as well as the work Joe has done for the Lycoming Law Association. Joe Campagna resigned from North Penn Legal Services in 2007 and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.
- 7) The Committee decided upon the Fair Share Awards to be distributed at the annual banquet to attorneys participating in the pro bono program. Additionally, the recipient of this year's Equal Access to Justice Award was chosen. The name of the recipient will not be revealed until the annual banquet.