

2011 PRO BONO REPORT

The Lycoming Law Association Members and their staff handled a record breaking 219 new pro bono cases for calendar year 2011. This included direct service representation, 2 divorce clinics, and 23 custody clinics.

This year one of the additions to the program included adding custody clinics at Penn College facilitated by paralegal students under the direction of attorney faculty members. Also, we have had a volunteer attorney in our office for several weeks, Kathleen O'Donnell Raker, who has come in as a "volunteer of the day" to handle brief service cases mainly in the landlord/tenant area. This is a project we have talked about for years, and we are thrilled to have Kathleen here helping us out.

The Mortgage Diversion program got into full swing this year. We referred out 26 cases to the members of the private bar in 2011 bringing the total number of mortgage diversion pro bono cases to 45 since the inception of the program. Judge Gray and Judge Anderson have continued to preside over the conferences during 2011. There have been conflicting reports from attorneys upon closing of their cases as to the successfulness of defending the action. However, we have received back information on 18 of the cases and a significant number of them have been settled by new repayment agreements.

With regard to training, North Penn Legal Services was able to offer 1 CLE on Protection From Abuse cases in December of 2011. In the beginning of the year, we conducted a Mortgage Foreclosure Procedures review for members of the Association.

David Trevaskis and Vicki Coyle from the Legal Services to the Indigent Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and John Person presented Judge Marc Lovecchio with his Pennsylvania Bar Association Pro Bono Award in his chambers in the Spring of 2011.

Again, this was an outstanding year with regard to the numbers of pro bono cases that were sent out. As indicated in last year's report, we were able to refer cases to attorneys who because of the areas of law in which they practiced were not able to have as many referrals prior to the Mortgage Diversion program establishment.