

In 2020 Attorneys and a paralegal in Lycoming County handled 226 cases for clients of North Penn Legal Service. As has been the case for years Protection from Abuse cases were the largest case type with 159 cases handled. The remaining 67 cases are listed below by case type. Pro bono attorneys also handled 4 conflict cases which do not appear on the list. Pro bono attorneys also handled 5 conflict cases which do not appear on the list.

Legal Problem Code	# of Cases
01 Bankruptcy/Debtor Relief	3
02 Collect/Repo/Def/Garnishment	2
09 Other Consumer/Finance	1
12 Discipline (Including Expulsion and Suspension)	1
25 Employee Rights	5
29 Other Employment	4
31 Custody / Visitation	18
32 Divorce / Sep. / Annul.	2
33 Adult Guardianship / Conservatorship	5
37 Domestic Abuse	159
51 Medicaid	1
54 Home and Community Based Care	2
63 Private Landlord/Tenant	10
76 Unemployment Compensation	7
93 Licenses (Drivers, Occupational, and Others)	2
96 Advanced Directives/Powers of Attorney	4
Grand Total	226

Cases are down by about 136 over 2019 but this is in the midst of a Pandemic and many factors contribute to these numbers. Moratoriums on evictions reduced housing cases for example but we are seeing a large increase as the moratoriums are lifted and are coming to a close.

In addition to representation, pro bono attorneys and paralegal were involved in 8 custody clinics and 1 divorce clinic. Clinics were very challenging given the Pandemic restrictions which were followed. Attorneys also volunteered to do community education, mentoring and research projects for NPLS.

Two retired Lycoming County attorneys continued to volunteer and advised clients remotely as did one retired paralegal.

The Cares Act funding provided funds for a mediation project for which the Law Association Foundation administered the monies. The program unfortunately ended at the end of November when there were still some prohibitions on evictions in existence and the need for this program has not yet met its full potential. The Courts were supportive and hopefully the program will be

able to find a home to continue this very important effort to keep people out of homelessness.. Law Association members have been volunteering their time to help set up the project and to act as mediators.

The CLE initiative for pro bono participation continues with more attorneys taking advantage of receiving the CLE on completion of a referral.

For the first time in many years NPLS did not provide a CLE program for the volunteers due to COVID. Hopefully 2021 will see a return to that benefit.

Finally given the COVID threat and the difficulties in working in general this year it is exceptional that the pro bono program was able to be as robust as it was. This is a tribute to all the attorneys who participated or stood ready to participate if called upon. This year saw attorneys who have always participated not get called for a referral due to fewer requests for service in their areas of practice.