

ABA/ NLADA 2004 Equal Justice Conference

Using Pro Bono to Increase Rural Delivery of Legal Services

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Brief Description:

How can programs involve more volunteer lawyers in the delivery of legal services to rural America? Panelists will explore successful partnerships and delivery initiatives aimed at addressing the legal needs of rural clients and their communities. The workshop will also discuss projects and strategies highlighted in the ABA Center for Pro Bono's 2003 publication *Rural Pro Bono Delivery: A Guide to Pro Bono Legal Services in Rural Areas*, and discuss findings and strategies developed at a recent conference on rural delivery sponsored by the Legal Services Corporation.

Topical Outline:

- I. Three Rivers Legal Services (TRLS)
 - a. Brief description of mini-grant for Consumer CLE (a CLE training as a recruitment tool as well as to bring much needed consumer legal information and strategies to the rural practitioners.)
 - I. Assessing the need
 - II. Description of the training and trainers
 - III. Results
 - b. Community outreach to increase services to clients; visibility in community (TRLS has opened part-time outreach offices in four rural counties to increase visibility in rural communities.)
 - I. Equal Justice Fellow working in four part-time offices in rural counties
 - II. Visibility to clients brings program into the community
 - III. In January 2004, TRLS increased its service area to include 17 counties in north Florida, including the large urban center of Jacksonville. TRLS is looking for creative new methods to use the new urban resources to benefit the rural client

population (about 56% of the poor population of the 17 counties).

- c. Direct Referrals to rural attorneys – TRLS uses a direct referral pro bono delivery system in the rural areas.
 - I. Using a small pool of rural volunteers to meet the need
 - II. Plans for working with urban attorneys to assist rural clients