

I. ABA/ NLADA 2007 Equal Justice Conference

Scaling the Mountain of Family Law Needs Through Innovative Pro Bono Models

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Brief Description: This ever-popular session will present several models of innovative techniques to increase family law pro bono services. Attendees will be encouraged to share their own creative solutions and success stories.

Topical Outline:

- I. Traditional Pro Bono Representation
 - a. Recruitment Strategies
 1. Pro Bono CLEs
 1. Basics of Family Law
 2. Pro Bono Family Law for the Non-Family Law Attorney
 3. Hot Topics in Family Law
 4. Include Judges
 2. State Bar Family Law Conference – Raffle Prizes
 3. E-newsletter
 - b. Volunteer support
 1. Automatic fee waiver
 2. Pro bono court reporters, interpreters, etc.
 3. Menotrs
 4. Bi-monthly luncheons
- II. Free Community Legal Education Classes
 - a. Developed through community partnerships
 - b. Provide pro se assistance & sample forms
 - c. Help give applicants realistic expectations
 - d. Act as filter for pro bono services
 - e. Expose law students to community needs and importance of pro bono
- III. Ask-A-Lawyer Program
 - a. Provides pro se assistance
 - b. Provides attorneys an alternative to traditional pro bono representation
 - c. Requires additional recruitment efforts
 - d. Requires staff attorney support
- IV. Batch clinics
 - a. What is a batch clinic?
 1. Giving pro bono attorney more than one case in the same case area
 2. Providing assistance to insure time-specific commitment of attorney time
 3. Offer CLE in area to encourage attorneys to assist
 - b. How are cases prepared
 1. Prepare cases to maximize the number of cases attorney can accept (12 if no children divorce, 10 if divorce w/children)
 2. Gather **all** necessary information from potential clients (paralegal or volunteer law students)
 1. Start with questionnaire sent to client (if client can not complete, provide assistance)

3. Enter information into hot docs or a data file to merge with ALL necessary pleadings and forms prior to meeting with attorney
 - c. Schedule appointments for all clients in one block of time (2-3 hours)
 - d. Garner Court support so that cases are kept together and heard on same day
 - e. Provide Paralegal, runner assistance to insure cases are timely filed
- V. Limited Representation Programs
- a. Family Law Pro Bono Custody Conciliation Program
 1. provides qualifying low-income clients with volunteer pro bono attorneys to help them reach a settlement of custody issues at a Conciliation.
 - b. YWCA Pro Bono Limited Asset Divorce Program
 1. provides representation to qualifying low-income clients seeking no-fault divorces with limited assets.
 2. Cases do not involve ancillary custody or support issues.

Notes:

Bibliography & Website Links:

1. "The Impact of Family Law Cases on Pro Bono Programs" (available at <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/familylawsurvey.html>)