

## **BERKS COUNTY PRO BONO OPTIONS, January 20, 2010**

### **A. Berks County Bar Association Pro Bono Program**

The Berks County Bar Association runs a pro bono program for county residents.

Members of the Bar who volunteer are assigned by the Bar Association staff a half-day per year to go to the MidPenn Legal Services office to meet with clients scheduled by MidPenn. Eligible clients are determined by MidPenn. When possible, the MidPenn pro bono coordinator attempts to match the client's needs with an attorney who has expressed an interest to only handle that type of case.

Members who are not exempted are asked to either volunteer their time or pay an opt-out fee of \$550.00. Exempt attorneys are those whose personal contracts, government or corporate employment prohibit such service. Also exempted are associate, honorary and members over the age of 70.

For the 12 months ending in October 2009, the Berks County Bar Association had 111 attorneys meet with clients and had 165 that chose to make the financial contribution.