

BLAIR COUNTY PRO BONO OPTIONS, January 14, 2010

A. Blair County Bar Association

Blair County Bar Association (BCBA) does not have a formal Pro Bono program. Local attorneys do provide pro bono assistance; however this is not reported or recorded in any fashion. Any Reduced Fee or Pro Bono work done by local attorneys is strictly between lawyer and client.

1. Local Pro Bono Projects

Blair County Bar Association sponsors "ASK THE LAWYER" a call-in show staffed by volunteer attorneys on the second Wednesday of every month. 5pm to 9pm. Megan Farrell Irwin, Esq. is the chairperson. She can be reached at (814) 942-1911. Questions not answered by the volunteers are directed to BCBA Lawyer Referral, which Lucy Wolf operates from the courthouse Law Library.

Credit Card Court is a recently established pro bono project. Credit Card Court is held the first Wednesday of every month in the Jury Assembly room, basement of the new addition to courthouse. Appointments are set up via Legal Services, which provides staff attorneys to assist clients. The program is essentially a low bono program. Attorneys that agree to provide pro bono assistance in one case are then eligible for three additional cases being paid a rate of \$30 per hour. The program is fully funded by IOLTA grants and the BCBA is seeking to continue this funding.

B. MidPenn Legal Services Regional Pro Bono Program

The pro bono program in Blair County is run by MidPenn Legal Services. It is actually a regional program that includes, Bedford, Blair, Clearfield, Centre, Huntingdon, Mifflin and Juniata counties. The Program is coordinated by a MidPenn Employee Jessie Kern. MidPenn recruits private attorney volunteers from the county by sending out a mailing to all members of the county bar association. Attorneys are asked to indicate the types of cases they would prefer to handle and the number of pro bono cases they would be willing to take in a given year. MidPenn then refers appropriate cases to those volunteers. These are only civil cases.

For more information, please contact:

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