

## **WESTMORELAND COUNTY PRO BONO OPTIONS, January 8, 2010**

### **A. Westmoreland Pro Bono Program**

The Westmoreland Pro Bono Program was formed by the Westmoreland Bar Association and Westmoreland Bar Foundation to help Laurel Legal Services, Inc., provide the best legal representation to eligible clients in the county. Attorneys who participate in the Pro Bono Program volunteer their time and represent clients at no cost.

After being interviewed by the Pro Bono coordinator to determine eligibility, individuals are given a scheduled appointment to meet with one of WPB's volunteer attorneys to discuss their case.

These private attorneys are qualified, experienced and dedicated members of the Pennsylvania and Westmoreland Bar Associations who volunteer their time to work on the individual's legal case. They will answer legal questions, provide sound, professional advice, review or prepare necessary legal documents and represent people in court.

Volunteer attorneys are trained in areas such as: Landlord/Tenant Law, Custody, Divorce, Simple Wills, Bankruptcy and much more.

The Pro Bono Program does not handle: Criminal Cases, Traffic Offenses (including DUI, DWI and driver's license suspensions) and Contingency Cases which may generate a fee for an attorney.

#### Custody Support Program

Since 1997, the Pro Bono Program has operated a Custody Program where attorneys represent income-qualified individuals in custody and visitation matters. The program has been very successful with 95% of the participating clients resolving their custody issues prior to or at the preliminary hearing.

#### Reduced Fee Panel

The WBF developed a Reduced Fee Panel in 2000 to supplement the Pro Bono and Custody Support Programs. Attorneys agree to work at reduced fees for individuals who meet economic guidelines.

For more information, please contact:

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