

2006 NORTHEAST PA PRO BONO SEMINAR: Survey Results

Of the attorneys who attended the 2006 Northeast PA Pro Bono Seminar* on October 19, 2006, 85 completed the Survey of Pro Bono Services. An analysis of the survey responses shows that 31 per cent of those completing the survey consider a county other than Lackawanna and Luzerne to be the county in which they primarily practice. The majority, 53 per cent, are sole practitioners. Most, 75 percent, have been in practice for more than ten years. More than 60 per cent had attended the Northeast PA Pro Bono Seminar in previous years. At least 65 per cent reported handling at least one pro bono case within the past year, while approximately 70 per cent reported handling at least one pro bono case within the past 5 years. Only 11 per cent reported that their pro bono cases were referred to them by pro bono programs, while an additional 15 per cent reported that pro bono programs were the source of some of their pro bono cases. The survey results indicate that friends, clergy, and word of mouth appear to be common sources of pro bono referrals.

Twenty-five per cent of those completing the survey reported that the amount of pro bono work they have done over the past five years has increased, while only 8 per cent reported a decrease in the amount. Seventy-four per cent anticipate that they will do pro bono work in the next year. Thirty-eight per cent reported that, as a result of the seminar, they are more likely to do pro bono work in the future, while 49 per cent reported that the seminar would not make them either more or less likely to do pro bono work in the future; one attorney reported that he or she would do less pro bono work as a result of attending the seminar. Most of those responding to the survey, 84 per cent, reported that the Northeast PA Pro Bono Seminars made them aware of resources that would be useful in their pro bono work.

The tables that follow set out the results of the survey, with the exception of the responses to Questions 14, 17, 19, and 20 (Comments), in greater detail than the above summary. Because the responses to Questions 14, 17, 19, and 20 are narratives which tables and statistics can't adequately summarize, for a fuller comprehension of the survey results and the attitudes of the survey respondents it is recommended that the reader look directly at the responses to those questions, which can be found in the copies of the surveys that accompany this report.

* Other than presenters, panelists, and course planners, 89 attorneys attended the 2006 Northeast PA Pro Bono Seminar.

Question 1: In what county do you primarily practice?

County	Number of Responses	Percentage
Lackawanna	28	33%
Luzerne	31	36%
Other	26	31%
TOTAL	85	100%

Question 2: Which of the following best describes your practice setting?

Practice Setting	Number of Responses	Percentage
Firm: More than 10 attorneys	3	3.5%
Firm: Six to ten attorneys	3	3.5%
Firm: Five or fewer attorneys	15	18%
Solo practice	45	53%
Legal Services Program	5	6%
Government	7	8%
Other (Law clerks, corporate, not practicing, etc.)	7	8%
TOTAL	85	100%

Question 3: For how many years have you been practicing law?

Number of Years	Number of Responses	Percentage
Between 1 and 5	12	14%
Between 6 and 10	9	11%
More than 10	64	75%
TOTAL	85	100%

Questions 4 & 5:

How many times have you attended the Northeast PA Pro Bono Seminar?

Number of Times Attending	Number of Responses	Percentage
One	30	35%
Two*	18	21%
Three*	15	17.5%
Four*	10	12%
Five*	9	10.5%
Other responses (Don't know, several)	3	4%
TOTAL	85	100%

* Several responses to Question 5 were in the form of a range covering two years (for example, 2 or 3). For the purpose of this table, those responses were divided equally within the range. (Example: Two people responded "2 or 3". In this table, one of those responses was treated as a 2 and the other was treated as a 3.)

Question 6: How many pro bono cases have you handled in the last year?

Number of Cases	Number of Responses	Percentage
Zero (Includes “not applicable”)	21	25%
1 to 5	43	50.5%
5 to 10	8	9%
More than 10	4	5%
Other (no response, numerous, several, all)	9	10.5%
TOTAL	85	100%

Question 9: How many pro bono cases have you handled in the last 5 years?

Number of Cases	Number of Responses	Percentage
Zero (Includes “not applicable”)	18	21%
1 to 5	18	21%
5 to 10	11	13%
11 to 20	15	18%
More than 20	15	18%
Other (no response, numerous, several, all)	8	9%
TOTAL	85	100%

Questions 8 & 11: How did the pro bono clients choose you?

	# of Responses	Percentage
Referral from pro bono program	9	11%
Referral from pro bono program and other methods	13	15%
Other (friends, clergy, word of mouth, no referral, etc.)	37	43%
No response or not applicable	26	31%
TOTAL	85	100%

Question 13: How has the amount of pro bono work you have done over the past five years changed?

	Number of Responses	Percentage
Increased	21	25%
Decreased	7	8%
No Change	31	36%
Respondent Doesn't Know	10	12%
Other (No response, not applicable)	16	19%
TOTAL	85	100%

Question 15: Do you anticipate that you will do pro bono work in the next year?

	Number of Responses	Percentage
Yes	63	74%
No	13	15%
No Response	8	9%
Unsure	1	1%
TOTAL	85	100%

Question 16: As a result of today's seminar, are you more or less likely to do pro bono work in the future?

	Number of Responses	Percentage
MORE	32	38%
LESS	1	1%
NO CHANGE	42	49%
NO RESPONSE	10	12%
TOTAL	85	100%

Question 18: Have the Northeast PA Pro Bono Seminars made you aware of resources that would be useful to you in doing pro bono work?

	Number of Responses	Percentage
Yes	71	84%
No	2	2%
No Response	12	14%
TOTAL	85	100%