

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In early January, 2011, the Court sent to all attorneys maintaining an email address and active registration in Ohio an invitation to report, voluntarily and anonymously, pro bono activities for calendar year 2010. The email included a link to an external website designed and maintained by OLAF, where participants entered information about pro bono legal services, financial support for organizations providing legal services to persons of limited means, and limited demographic information.

For the first time, the reporting process allowed firm representatives to report pro bono activities on behalf of firm members. Ninety-five Ohio law firms chose to take advantage of the ability to report pro bono activities as a firm.

One thousand seventy-seven (1,077) individual attorneys, and the 95 firm representatives participating on behalf of 4,466 firm members, chose to report pro bono activities for calendar year 2010. The combined total participation was 5,543 attorneys, the largest number in the three years of voluntary pro bono reporting. The participation rate for calendar year 2010 was 14%, double the rate for 2009.

Individual attorneys reported 71,128 hours of pro bono legal services and firm representatives reported 68,513 hours, for a combined total of 139,641 hours. This was the largest number of hours reported since voluntary, anonymous pro bono reporting was instituted, and represented an increase of 45% over reported hours for calendar year 2009.

In its report to the Court a year ago, OLAF set a goal for the 2010 reporting cycle of documenting 140,000 hours, an increase of 14% over the number of hours reported for 2008, the first year of voluntary pro bono reporting. With the Court's support, OLAF attained 99.7% of its target.

The dollar value of pro bono legal services contributed by attorneys who chose to report pro bono activities is \$18,851,535.00, calculated at a modest hourly rate of \$135.00. Using the same average hourly rate, the dollar amount for 2010 represents a \$5.8 million dollar increase over 2009 in the contribution of legal services to low income Ohioans.

Firm representatives indicated that about half of the firm members for whom they reported made contributions to organizations providing legal services to persons of limited means; about 21% of individual attorneys reported contributions. Individual attorney contributions averaged \$316.00 and firm contributions averaged \$6,237.24.

The largest percentages of both individual attorneys and firms participating in voluntary pro bono reporting indicated they either lived or were located in northeast Ohio (24.1%); central and southwest Ohio were second and third, respectively.