



ACCESS TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts

LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF PRO BONO REPORTING

2002 - 2017

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INTRODUCTION

Since 2002, Maryland lawyers have been required to report annually on their pro bono activity as a condition precedent to the practice of law. Maryland Rule of Professional Conduct (MRPC), Rule 19-306.1, provides that “An attorney in the full-time practice of law should aspire to render at least 50 hours per year of pro bono publico legal service, and an attorney in part-time practice should aspire to render at least a pro rata number of hours.” The data collected through pro bono reporting aid the Maryland Court of Appeals in evaluating how well attorneys fulfill that aspirational goal.

The format of the report has changed slightly over the years, but has consistently captured data about the composition of the Maryland bar, the type of legal work lawyers do, the type of organizations for which they work, the amount of pro bono service they provide and to whom, and the magnitude of their financial contributions to organizations that provide legal help to low-income Marylanders. Data are presented each year in a report submitted by the Administrative Office of the Courts to the Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services. Those annual reports, titled *Current Status of Pro Bono Service Among Maryland Lawyers*, are available at: <https://mdcourts.gov/probono/reportsinfopackets>.

CHANGES IN THE REPORTING CYCLE

Effective January 2019, the Maryland Court of Appeals adopted revisions to Maryland Rule 19-503 and related rules to shift the reporting cycle from a calendar year cycle to a fiscal year cycle. The modified rules provide for a single, coordinated compliance cycle for Maryland attorneys. Going forward, attorneys will be notified by July 10 of each year that they are to use the online Attorney Information System (AIS) to file their pro bono and Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) reports and pay the annual assessment due to the Client Protection Fund (CPF). This coordinated schedule will make it easier for attorneys to maintain their good standing and fulfill their compliance requirements.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report updates an earlier compilation of data entitled a *Longitudinal Analysis of Pro Bono Reporting: 2002-2012*. The current report expands the earlier report to include reporting for calendar years 2013 through 2017.

The year 2017 is the last year for which data will be available on a calendar year basis. In July 2019, attorneys will be asked to report for the 18-month period from January 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. In subsequent years, attorneys will report on pro bono activity for the prior fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

This report presents a compilation of the results from the *Current Status* reports prepared for calendar years 2002 through 2017. The data are presented without analysis, but by looking at the results reported over this 16-year period, several trends are notable.

- **An increase in the bar has meant an increase in service and contributions.** The Maryland bar grew significantly between 2002 and 2017, adding over 9,600 attorneys on active status, an increase of 31 percent. In 2017 there were 40,420 active

members of the bar. This increase has led to an increase in the total number of pro bono hours provided. It also may account for the increase in the total financial contributions of Maryland lawyers to programs that serve people of limited means.

- **Where the lawyers are.** Baltimore City has seen a relative decline in the percentage of the bar practicing in that jurisdiction. Montgomery County and, to a lesser extent, Baltimore County, have seen increases.
- **Few lawyers report primary practice areas relevant to the poor.** Family law remains the highest pro bono practice area but remains a smaller practice area for Maryland lawyers, with only 5.5 percent reporting family law as their primary practice area.
- **The public interest bar remains a very small part of the bar.** In 2017, 522 attorneys reported working for a legal services organization and 607 reported working for a public interest organization. Combined, those areas represent 3.3 percent of the total active bar.
- **Several demographic changes have limited the growth in pro bono.** The composition of the bar has changed in several ways, increasing characteristics that make it less likely attorneys will serve pro bono in Maryland:
 - Attorneys reporting an office in Maryland declined by nearly 8 percent over the reporting period, with increasing numbers reporting a primary address in Washington, DC (+4.2 percent) and in states outside the Maryland, DC, Virginia area (+3.2 percent).
 - Fewer full-time attorneys are reporting they work for a firm (-6.5 percent). Attorneys who work in firms (as opposed to those who work as corporate counsel, in government, or in public interest) are more likely to report pro bono and more likely to meet the 50-hour aspirational goal.
 - More full-time attorneys are reporting they work in government (+4.0 percent). Attorneys who report they work in government are least likely to report pro bono or to meet the 50-hour goal. Some government attorneys are precluded from practicing law or may have restrictions on what they can do as a result of their employment.
- **That attorneys do not appear to leave the profession at the same rate new attorneys enter suggests there is an opportunity to engage these seasoned attorneys.** Data from the 2016 and 2017 reporting cycles indicate experienced attorneys are more likely to serve pro bono.
- **Fewer regional disparities in service.** While the western and eastern regions of the state still report the highest relative percentage of attorneys doing pro bono, the differences between the rural parts of the state and the metro areas appears to be shrinking slightly.

REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Maryland Rule 19-503 requires all Maryland attorneys authorized to practice law in the state to report annually on their pro bono activities. The chart below illustrates the percentage of lawyers who complied with the rule by the time the data was compiled, submitting their Pro Bono Legal Service Report either online or by U.S. mail. As the Judiciary shifts to implement changes to the reporting rule that now permit all notices to attorneys to be by email and which require attorneys to complete the report online through the Attorney Information System, it will be important to evaluate whether we can continue to ensure such a high compliance rate.

TABLE 1. REPORTING COMPLIANCE RATE

Year	Reporting Compliance Rate
2002	97.80%
2003	99.02%
2004	99.36%
2005	99.08%
2006	99.40%
2007	99.37%
2008	99.31%
2009	99.35%
2010	99.40%
2011	99.46%
2012	99.59%
2013	99.10%
2014	99.03%
2015	99.04%
2016	99.04%
2017	99.49%

THE COMPOSITION OF THE MARYLAND BAR

LAWYERS ON ACTIVE STATUS

A notice to file the Pro Bono Legal Service Report has been sent each year to each lawyer on “active” status and authorized to practice law in the state. This figure does not include lawyers who have some form of special authorization to practice. For example, it does not include attorneys admitted to practice under Rule 19-218 (out-of-state attorneys affiliated with legal services programs), 19-219 (military spouse attorneys), 19-217 (pro hac vice admissions), or 19-220 (law students). The chart below reflects the number of attorneys on active status at the time the notice was sent for the reporting years indicated.

TABLE 2. LAWYERS ON ACTIVE STATUS IN MARYLAND

Year	Number of Lawyers
2002	30,763
2003	31,469
2004	31,430
2005	32,290
2006	32,985
2007	33,688
2008	34,393
2009	34,967
2010	35,568
2011	36,474
2012	37,388
2013	38,352
2014	39,241
2015	39,748
2016	40,186
2017	40,420
Number Increased:	9,657
Change:	31%

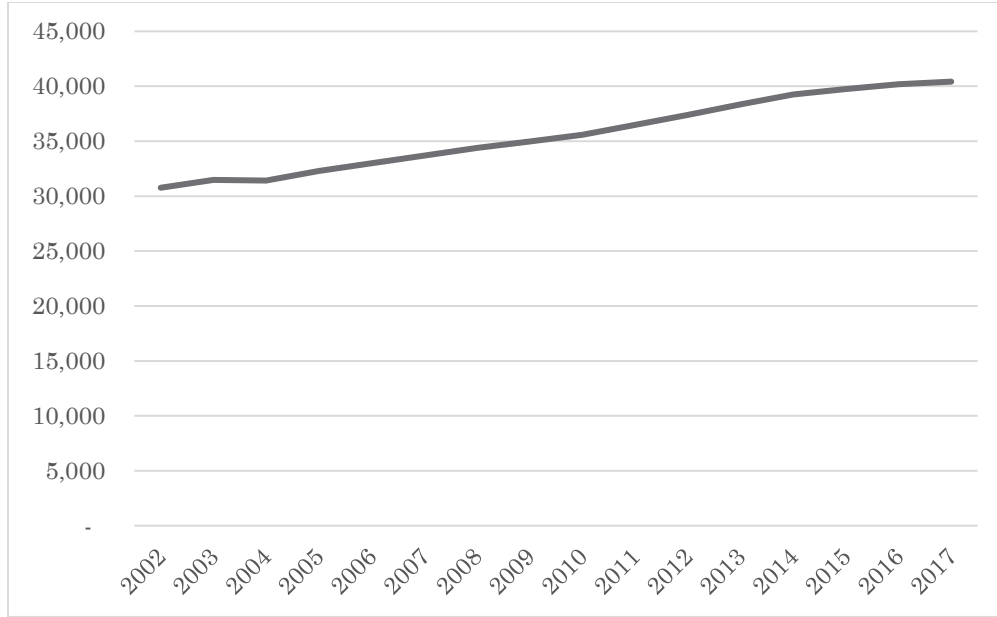


FIGURE 1. NUMBER OF LAWYERS ON ACTIVE STATUS IN MARYLAND

ADMITTANCE YEAR

At least 1,000 new attorneys have been admitted to the Maryland bar each year for most of the last 22 years. Admissions peaked in 2012 when more than 1,500 attorneys were admitted. Admissions have been declining since then. In 2016, slightly fewer than 1,000 were admitted. Overall, the bar has grown significantly during the reporting period.

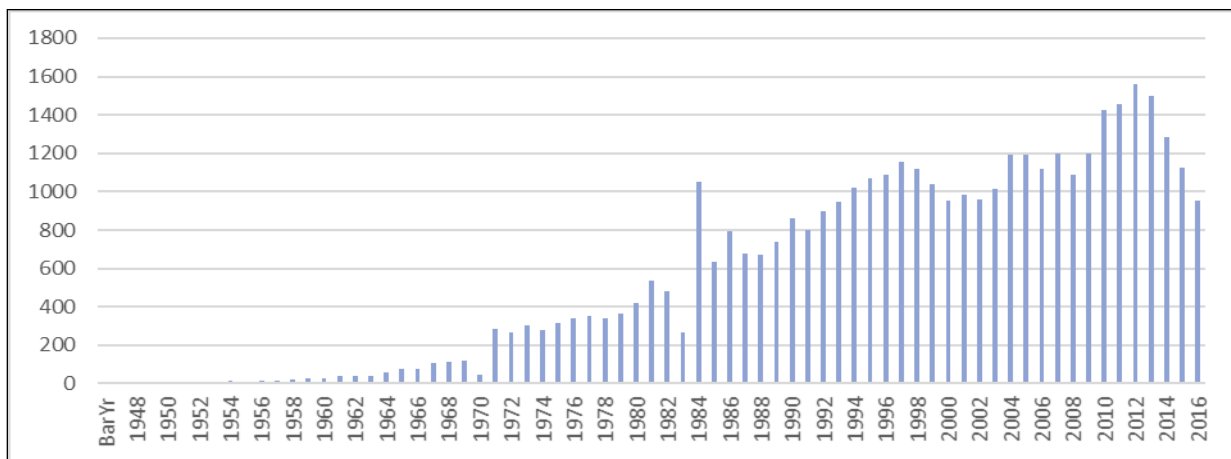


FIGURE 2. NUMBER OF LAWYERS ON ACTIVE STATUS BY BAR ADMITTANCE YEAR

While the bar is growing, it may also be aging. The median admittance year for attorneys has increased only 10 years over the last 16 reporting cycles. This suggests that attorneys are not leaving the profession as quickly as they are entering it. Although the Pro Bono Legal Service Report does not capture attorney age, the data suggests older attorneys are remaining in practice even as significant numbers of young attorneys are joining the profession.

TABLE 3. MEDIAN YEAR OF ADMITTANCE BY REPORTING CYCLE

Reporting Cycle	Median Admittance	Years from Median Admittance
2002	1988	14
2003	1988	15
2004	1989	15
2005	1990	15
2006	1991	15
2007	1991	16
2008	1992	16
2009	1993	16
2010	1993	17
2011	1994	17
2012	1995	17
2013	1996	17
2014	1997	17
2015	1997	18
2016	1998	18
2017	1998	19

WHERE MARYLAND LAWYERS WORK

The pro bono report asks attorneys to report their office address. A significant portion of attorneys who are members of the Maryland bar report an office address outside the state, most notably Washington, D.C. Those with offices in Maryland declined by nearly 8 percent during the period covered by this report, with increases going to Washington, D.C., and states outside the MD-DC-VA area.

TABLE 4. OFFICE LOCATION OF MARYLAND LAWYERS

Year	Maryland	DC	Virginia	Other States	Foreign
2002	63.6%	19.3%	7.1%	9.6%	0.3%
2003	59.4%	23.9%	6.3%	10.1%	0.1%
2004	59.4%	23.7%	6.3%	10.3%	0.3%
2005	59.2%	23.6%	6.6%	10.2%	0.3%
2006	60.5%	22.1%	6.9%	10.3%	0.3%
2007	58.8%	23.7%	6.6%	10.5%	0.3%
2008	58.7%	23.9%	6.6%	10.5%	0.4%
2009	58.6%	23.8%	6.8%	10.5%	0.3%
2010	58.3%	23.9%	6.8%	10.6%	0.4%
2011	58.3%	23.7%	6.8%	10.8%	0.4%
2012	57.8%	23.7%	6.9%	11.2%	0.4%
2013	57.6%	23.6%	7.1%	11.3%	0.4%
2014	57.1%	23.5%	7.2%	11.8%	0.4%
2015	56.6%	23.5%	7.4%	12.1%	0.4%
2016	56.5%	23.2%	7.5%	12.4%	0.5%
2017	55.8%	23.5%	7.5%	12.8%	0.5%
Change:	-7.8%	4.2%	0.4%	3.2%	0.2%

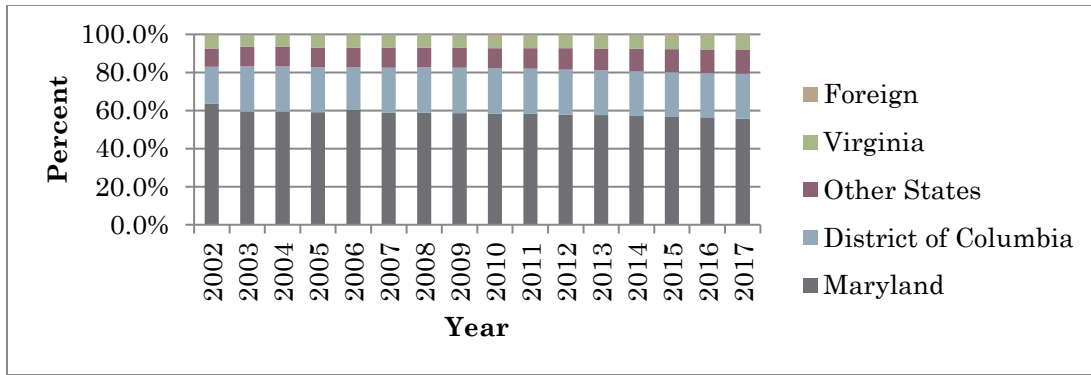


FIGURE 3. OFFICE LOCATION OF MARYLAND LAWYERS

In the Pro Bono Legal Service Report, attorneys were asked to identify up to three jurisdictions where they practice, identifying them in order of prevalence. The data below reflect the primary jurisdiction most often reported by Maryland lawyers.

TABLE 5. FIRST CHOICE JURISDICTION

Year	Anne Arundel	Baltimore City	Baltimore Co.	Prince George's	Montgomery	Rest of Maryland
2002	7.80%	31.50%	12.60%	9.60%	20.00%	18.50%
2003	7.70%	27.80%	13.30%	10.10%	23.00%	18.10%
2004	7.90%	26.80%	13.90%	10.10%	23.50%	17.80%
2005	7.50%	27.20%	13.80%	10.00%	24.50%	17.00%
2006	7.60%	27.20%	13.50%	10.00%	24.60%	17.10%
2007	7.60%	26.40%	14.10%	9.80%	25.10%	17.00%
2008	7.50%	26.20%	13.60%	10.10%	26.20%	16.40%
2009	7.50%	25.50%	14.30%	10.00%	25.50%	17.20%
2010	7.80%	24.90%	14.40%	10.10%	25.60%	17.20%
2011	7.60%	25.40%	14.20%	10.00%	25.60%	17.20%
2012	7.80%	25.10%	14.10%	10.00%	25.60%	17.40%
2013	7.80%	24.90%	14.30%	10.20%	25.70%	17.10%
2014	7.90%	24.80%	14.20%	10.20%	25.70%	17.20%
2015	8.10%	25.00%	14.00%	10.00%	25.70%	17.20%
2016	8.20%	24.80%	13.80%	9.90%	26.30%	17.00%
2017	8.30%	24.50%	13.80%	10.20%	26.00%	17.20%
Change	0.50%	-7.00%	1.20%	0.60%	6.00%	-1.30%

Over the period of this study, Montgomery County eclipsed Baltimore City as the jurisdiction the most lawyers report as their primary jurisdiction. This dovetails with the decline in attorneys reporting Baltimore City as a primary office address.

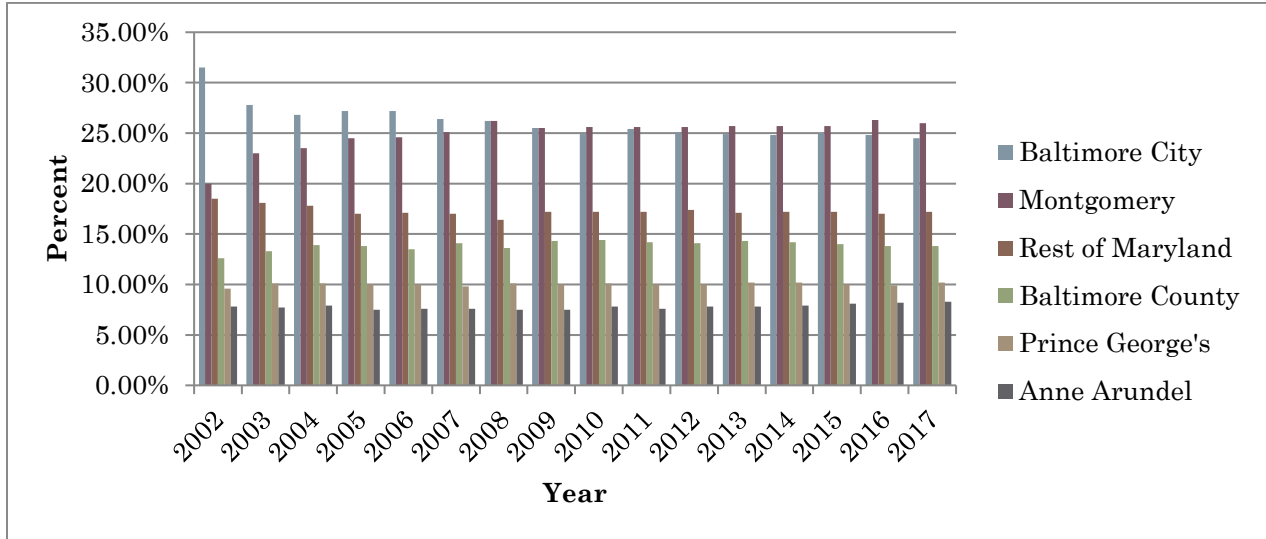


FIGURE 4. FIRST CHOICE JURISDICTION

THE TYPE OF LEGAL WORK DONE BY MARYLAND LAWYERS

Maryland lawyers are asked to report on the primary type of law they practice. Attorneys are permitted to select up to three practice areas. Those reporting one of their practice areas as “government” increased by 6.7 percent over the reporting period. By comparison, the proportion of attorneys reporting “family/domestic” as a practice area showed no net increase or decrease between 2002 and 2017, and other practice areas showed only modest increases, with the exception of “litigation,” which increased by 5.7 percent. All “other” practice areas collectively increased by 8.2 percent.

On average, the top primary practice areas through this period in order have been:

1. Litigation
2. Corporate/Business
3. Other
4. Government
5. Criminal
6. Real Estate
7. Family
8. Employment/Labor

TABLE 6. PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS

Year	Litigation	Corporate /Business	Gov't	Criminal	Real Estate	Family/ Domestic	General	Other
2002	8.10%	9.50%	4.30%	6.70%	5.60%	5.30%	4.30%	3.20%
2003	13.60%	11.10%	7.40%	7.30%	6.80%	5.80%	5.20%	8.60%
2004	13.40%	11.20%	7.50%	7.40%	7.00%	5.80%	5.30%	8.90%
2005	14.10%	11.00%	6.50%	7.60%	7.20%	5.90%	4.60%	10.30%
2006	14.20%	11.00%	6.70%	7.50%	7.20%	5.80%	4.50%	10.70%
2007	14.40%	10.90%	6.70%	7.60%	6.90%	5.70%	4.50%	11.00%
2008	14.00%	10.80%	7.10%	7.60%	6.50%	5.60%	4.70%	11.20%
2009	13.70%	10.60%	7.40%	7.60%	6.40%	5.60%	4.70%	11.30%
2010	13.60%	10.50%	7.60%	7.50%	6.10%	5.50%	4.80%	11.40%
2011	13.80%	10.50%	7.50%	7.40%	5.90%	5.50%	4.70%	11.50%
2012	13.70%	10.30%	7.80%	7.40%	5.90%	5.50%	4.80%	11.40%
2013	13.80%	10.50%	9.90%	8.60%	6.20%	5.60%	3.80%	11.80%
2014	13.90%	10.70%	10.30%	8.60%	6.20%	5.50%	3.80%	11.70%
2015	13.60%	10.80%	10.80%	8.60%	6.20%	5.40%	3.70%	11.50%
2016	13.50%	10.90%	11.00%	8.40%	6.20%	5.40%	3.60%	11.50%
2017	13.80%	10.90%	11.00%	8.40%	6.20%	5.30%	3.50%	11.40%
Avg.	13.45%	10.70%	8.09%	7.76%	6.41%	5.58%	4.41%	10.46%
Change	5.70%	1.40%	6.70%	1.70%	0.60%	0.00%	-0.80%	8.20%

FIRM SIZE

Beginning with the 2005 reporting cycle, Maryland lawyers have been asked to report on the size of the firm for which they work. Over time, more Maryland lawyers report they work as solo practitioners (up 5.8 percent), with concomitant decreases in those reporting they work in small (-2.7 percent), medium (-0.6 percent) or extra-large firms (-2.4 percent).

TABLE 7. FIRM SIZE

Year	Solo	Small Firm	Medium Firm	Large Firm	Extra-Large Firm
2005	30.70%	22.20%	13.80%	6.50%	26.30%
2006	30.50%	22.10%	13.40%	6.90%	26.40%
2007	30.90%	21.50%	13.40%	7.20%	26.30%
2008	31.80%	20.90%	13.70%	6.80%	26.20%
2009	32.70%	21.10%	13.70%	6.70%	25.30%
2010	33.50%	21.10%	13.80%	6.60%	24.50%
2011	34.00%	21.10%	13.50%	6.30%	24.50%
2012	34.00%	21.20%	13.40%	6.60%	24.30%
2013	34.30%	21.40%	12.90%	6.70%	24.20%
2014	35.40%	20.50%	13.30%	6.60%	23.90%
2015	35.80%	20.30%	13.40%	6.40%	23.90%
2016	35.70%	19.90%	13.60%	6.40%	24.10%
2017	36.50%	19.50%	13.20%	6.70%	23.90%
Change:	5.80%	-2.70%	-0.60%	0.20%	-2.40%

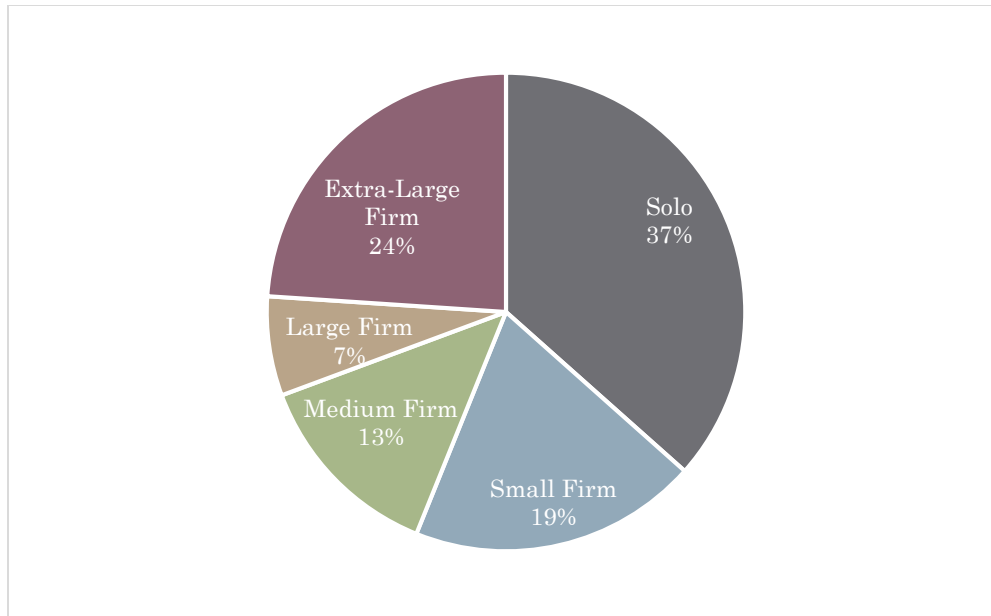


FIGURE 5. FIRM SIZE

FIRM TYPE

Since 2005, Maryland lawyers have been asked to report on the “type” of organization for which they work, whether that be a private law firm, a government entity, whether they serve as in-house corporate counsel, or serve with a legal services or public interest organization. The percentage of those reporting they serve either part-time or full-time with a legal services or public interest organization has remained low. Those reporting they work in a private firm setting have declined (-3.7 percent among all lawyers and -6.5 percent among full-time lawyers). Among full-time lawyers, those reporting they serve in a governmental entity increased 4 percent during the report period.

TABLE 8. FIRM TYPE - ALL LAWYERS

Year	Firm	Corporate Counsel	Gov't	Legal Services	Public Interest	Not Practicing
2005	57.4%	7.7%	17.8%	1.5%	1.6%	13.9%
2006	57.6%	7.9%	18.1%	1.4%	1.6%	13.4%
2007	57.7%	7.9%	18.3%	1.5%	1.6%	13.0%
2008	56.9%	7.8%	18.7%	1.4%	1.6%	13.5%
2009	56.5%	7.6%	19.3%	1.5%	1.7%	13.4%
2010	56.2%	7.8%	19.7%	1.4%	1.7%	13.2%
2011	55.8%	8.0%	19.6%	1.5%	1.6%	13.6%
2012	55.2%	8.0%	19.8%	1.4%	1.6%	14.0%
2013	54.9%	8.2%	19.6%	1.4%	1.7%	14.1%
2014	54.7%	8.2%	19.9%	1.5%	1.7%	14.0%
2015	54.0%	8.4%	20.1%	1.4%	1.9%	14.1%
2016	53.7%	8.5%	20.2%	1.5%	1.7%	14.3%
2017	53.7%	8.4%	20.3%	1.8%	1.5%	14.3%
Change:	-3.7%	0.7%	2.5%	0.3%	-0.1%	0.4%

TABLE 9. FIRM TYPE - FULL-TIME LAWYERS

Year	Firm	Corporate Counsel	Gov't	Legal Services	Public Interest	Not Practicing
2005	68.3%	9.3%	17.4%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%
2006	67.7%	9.4%	17.9%	1.4%	1.7%	1.8%
2007	67.3%	9.6%	18.2%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%
2008	66.1%	9.5%	19.1%	1.5%	1.7%	2.0%
2009	65.6%	9.3%	19.7%	1.6%	1.9%	1.8%
2010	65.1%	9.4%	20.3%	1.5%	1.8%	1.9%
2011	64.8%	9.8%	20.1%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%
2012	64.2%	9.8%	20.4%	1.6%	1.8%	2.2%
2013	63.9%	10.2%	20.2%	1.6%	1.9%	2.2%
2014	63.3%	10.2%	20.6%	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%
2015	62.3%	10.5%	21.2%	1.7%	2.2%	2.3%

Year	Firm	Corporate Counsel	Gov't	Legal Services	Public Interest	Not Practicing
2016	62.1%	10.7%	21.0%	1.8%	2.0%	2.4%
2017	61.8%	10.8%	21.4%	1.7%	2.1%	2.3%
Change	-6.5%	1.5%	4.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.6%

ATTORNEYS WORKING FOR LEGAL SERVICE OR PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

During the period covered by this report, an average of 522 attorneys each year reported working for legal services organizations serving low-income Marylanders. Another 607 attorneys, on average, reported working for public interest organizations. These latter may include nonprofit organizations that serve the public but may not necessarily provide direct legal services. As shown in the figure below, the public interest bar remains small despite the overall growth of the Maryland bar.

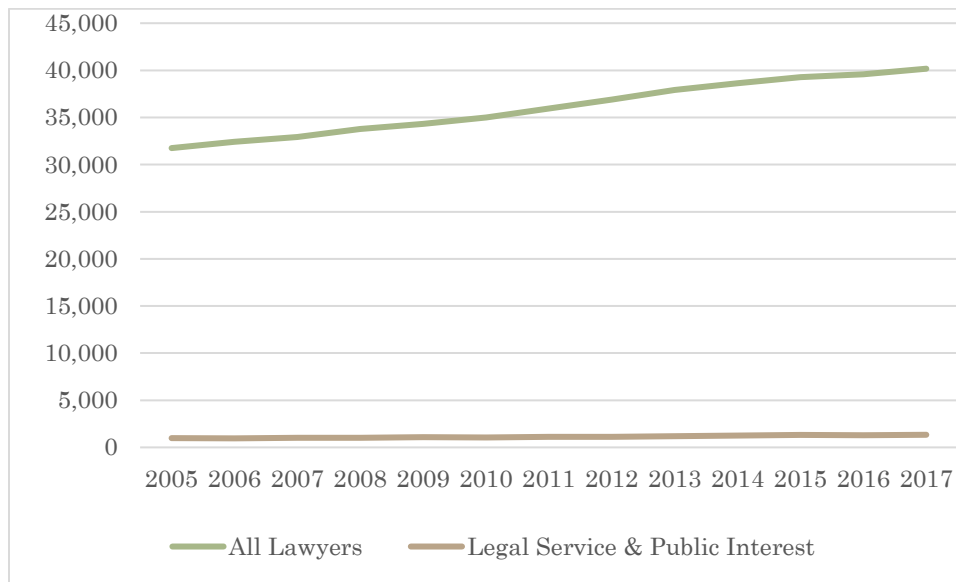


FIGURE 6. GROWTH OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST BAR COMPARED TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MARYLAND LAWYERS

TABLE 10. ATTORNEYS EMPLOYED BY LEGAL SERVICE OR PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

Year	Legal Services Organizations	Public Interest Organizations
2005	465	515
2006	440	517
2007	482	530
2008	462	546
2009	505	572
2010	483	578
2011	534	568
2012	528	590
2013	543	641
2014	563	676
2015	568	747
2016	602	685
2017	606	731
Average	522	607

THE PRO BONO CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARYLAND LAWYERS

LAWYERS SERVING PRO BONO

During the period covered by this report, the Maryland bar, including only those on active status and authorized to practice law in the state, grew by 31 percent, adding more than 9,600 new attorneys. During this same period, the percentage of attorneys doing pro bono declined by 6.6 percent. On average, between 2002 and 2017, approximately 47 percent of the bar provided some pro bono service during any given year. This includes lawyers who work part-time and full-time. Among full-time lawyers, the number of attorneys doing some pro bono is higher (on average 56.2 percent).

Despite the percentage decline, and perhaps because of the significant growth of the bar, the number of hours of service provided increased significantly, by 16.6 percent.

TABLE 11. PERCENT OF ALL & FULL-TIME LAWYERS DOING PRO BONO

Year	ALL LAWYERS	FULL-TIME LAWYERS
2002	47.80%	58.30%
2003	47.40%	57.90%
2004	47.90%	59.40%
2005	48.00%	56.80%
2006	47.40%	55.90%
2007	47.00%	55.00%
2008	47.20%	54.90%
2009	47.30%	59.30%
2010	46.70%	58.80%
2011	45.50%	57.60%
2012	44.70%	57.20%
2013	43.70%	55.70%
2014	42.40%	53.80%
2015	42.10%	53.70%
2016	41.70%	53.00%
2017	41.20%	52.10%
Average	46.99%	56.21%
Change in Percent	-6.60%	-6.20%

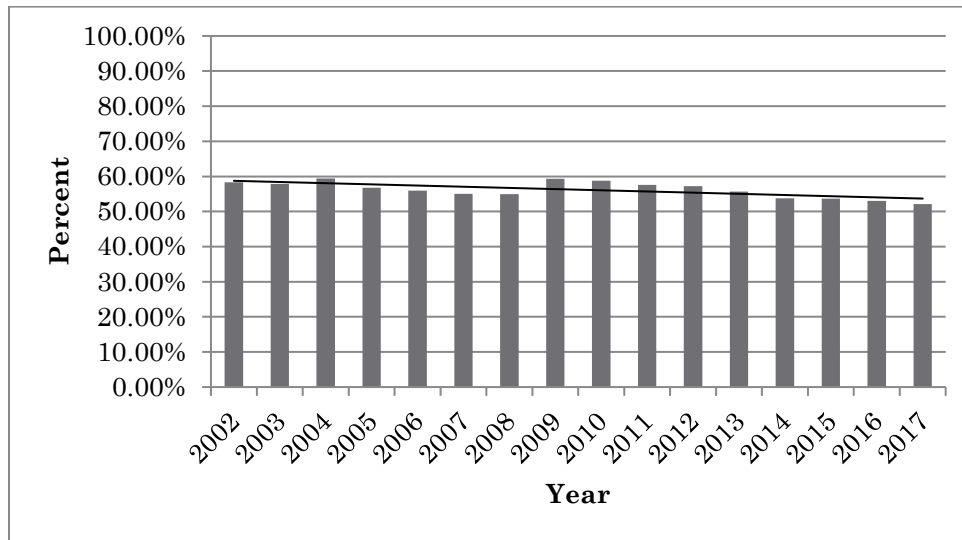


FIGURE 7. PERCENT OF FULL-TIME LAWYERS DOING PRO BONO

TABLE 12. TOTAL PRO BONO SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED

Year	Total Hours Provided
2002	995,615
2003	1,031,216
2004	1,071,968
2005	1,098,609
2006	1,097,662
2007	1,069,666
2008	1,109,686
2009	1,139,866
2010	1,181,028
2011	1,163,859
2012	1,162,232
2013	1,167,230
2014	1,144,952
2015	1,143,992
2016	1,150,205
2017	1,160,906
Average	1,118,043
Change over time	16.60 %

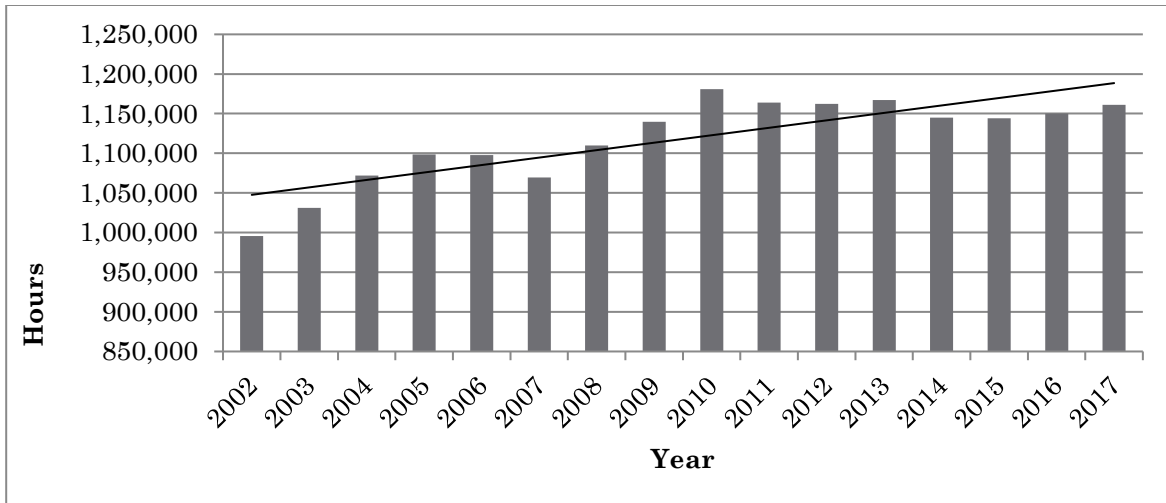


FIGURE 8. TOTAL HOURS PRO BONO SERVICE PROVIDED

There are regional differences in the number of lawyers doing pro bono. Generally, the more rural areas of the state appear to outperform their metropolitan neighbors as a relative percentage of their local bar. In other words, a higher percentage of the attorneys in the western and eastern, and to some extent the southern regions of the state, report they are doing pro bono than those in the capital and central regions. The difference between the regions, however, has diminished slightly over time.

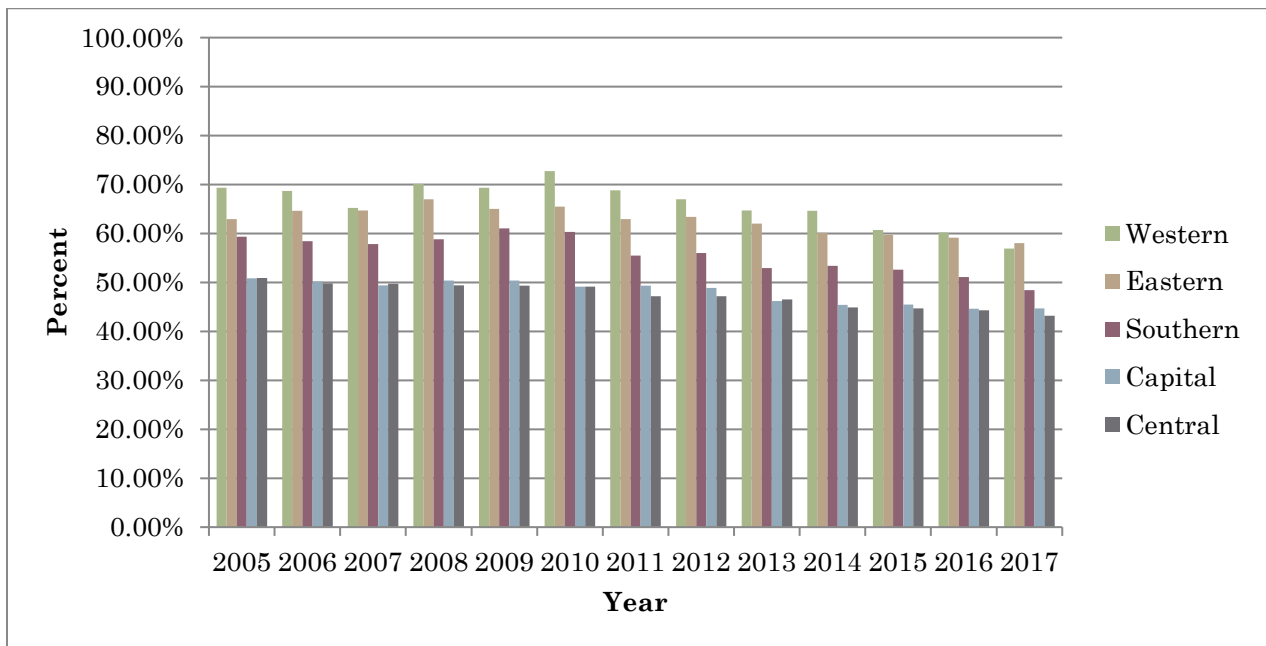


FIGURE 9. PERCENT OF ALL LAWYERS DOING PRO BONO BY REGION

ASPIRATIONAL 50-HOUR GOAL

Maryland Rule 19-306.1 provides that “An attorney in the full-time practice of law should aspire to render at least 50 hours per year of pro bono publico legal service, and an attorney in part-time practice should aspire to render at least a pro rata number of hours.” On average 21.54 percent of full-time Maryland lawyers reported meeting the aspirational goal of providing 50 hours per year of pro bono service. The percent of attorneys meeting the goal increased by 1.3 percent over the reporting period.

TABLE 13. PERCENT OF FULL-TIME ATTORNEYS MEETING 50-HOUR GOAL

Year	% Meeting 50 Hour Goal
2002	17.70%
2003	22.90%
2004	23.10%
2005	23.30%
2006	22.80%
2007	22.00%
2008	22.40%
2009	22.60%
2010	23.10%
2011	22.70%
2012	22.20%
2013	20.80%
2014	19.90%
2015	20.30%
2016	19.90%
2017	19.00%
Average	21.54%
Change in Percent:	1.30%

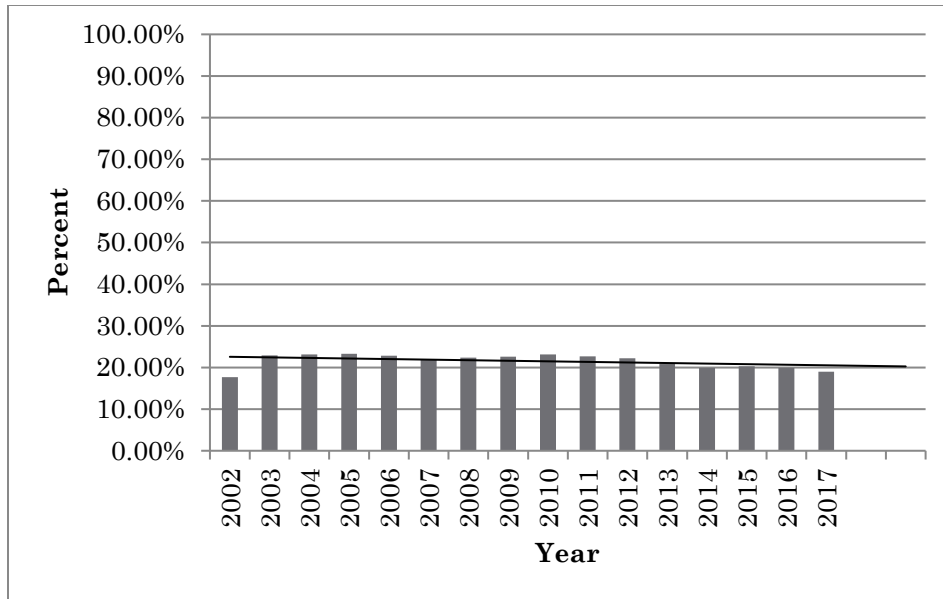


FIGURE 10. PERCENT OF FULL-TIME LAWYERS MEETING 50-HOUR GOAL

Full-time attorneys who report they are in a solo practice or an extra-large firm are more likely to report they met the 50-hour goal in any given year. This trend has remained consistent over the reporting period.

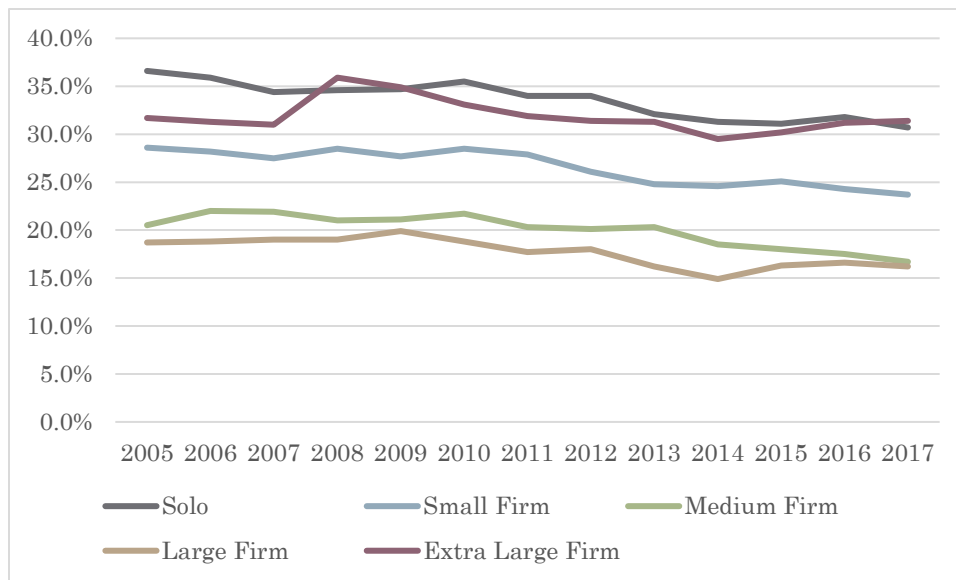


FIGURE 11. FULL-TIME ATTORNEYS MEETING 50-HOUR GOAL BY FIRM SIZE

Full-time attorneys who report they are in a law firm are more likely to report they have met the 50-hour aspirational service goal. Those least likely to report they met the goal are those in a government practice, or who report they are corporate counsel.

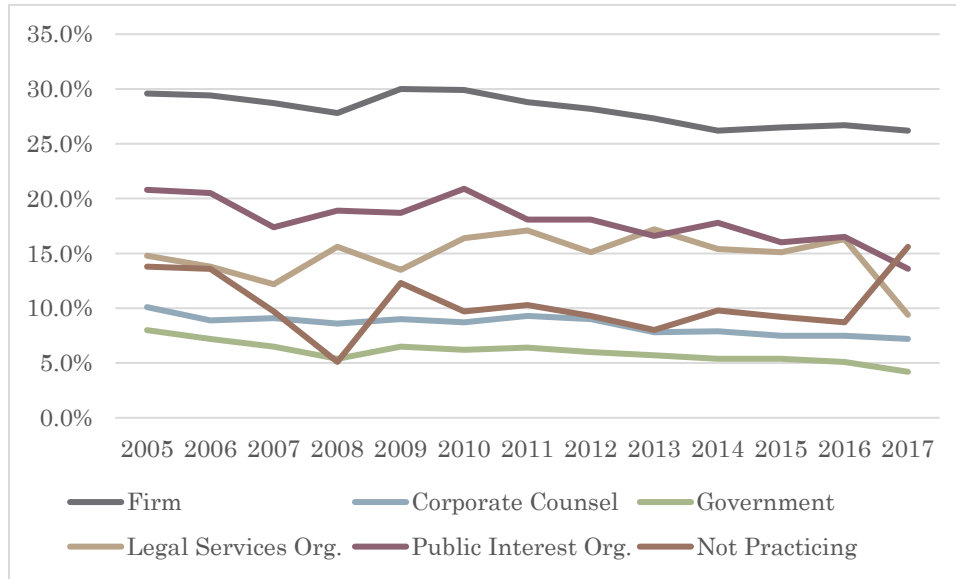


FIGURE 12. FULL-TIME ATTORNEYS MEETING 50-HOUR GOAL BY FIRM TYPE

The year of admittance is also a factor in whether and how much pro bono service attorneys provide. Attorneys admitted to practice longer are more likely to serve pro bono and more likely to meet the 50-hour aspirational service goal.

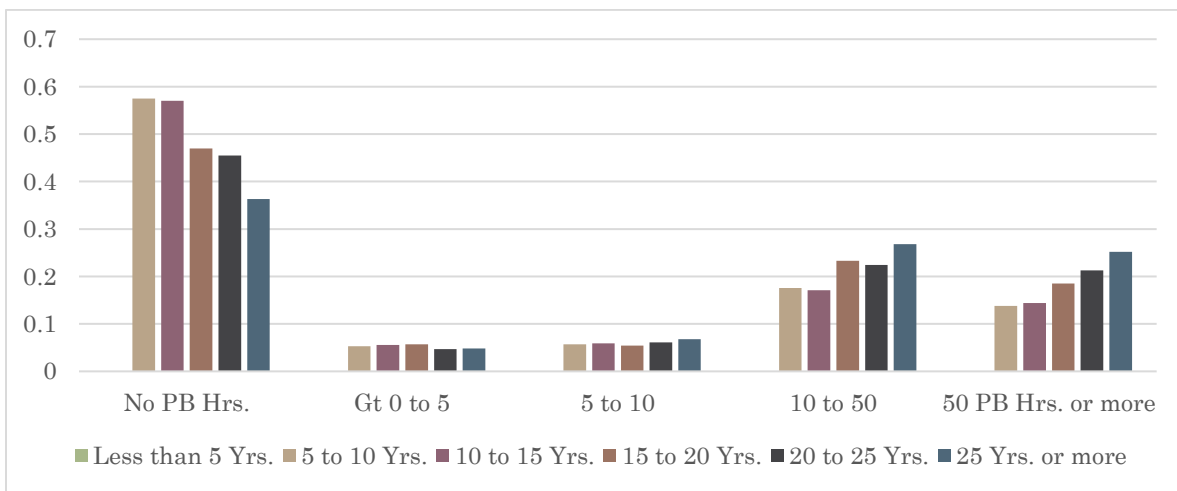


FIGURE 13. PRO BONO HOURS BY ADMISSION YEAR AMONG FULL-TIME LAWYERS (MARYLAND OFFICE) - 2017

TYPE OF SERVICE PROVIDED

Maryland attorneys report the type of cases for which they provided pro bono service during the year. Family law has consistently been the area in which attorneys are most likely to report they provided service. This is a high area of demand for legal services programs generally.

TABLE 14. TOP PRO BONO PRACTICE AREAS

Top 5 Pro Bono Practice Areas Over Time	Top 5 for Last 5 Years
1. Family	1. Family
2. Criminal	2. Corporate
3. Other	3. Other
4. Litigation	4. Criminal
5. Real Estate	5. Real Estate

If this reflects the demand for pro bono services, there is a mismatch between the type of expertise Maryland lawyers have and the needs of pro bono clients. Few Maryland lawyers report family law as their primary practice area. It is seventh on the list (see page 9, above.) An average of 5.5 percent of Maryland attorneys reported family law as their first choice primary practice area during the period covered by this report.

It is not surprising then that family practitioners, along with elder law specialists and general practitioners, are among the most likely to meet the 50-hour service goal. Figure 14 shows how many attorneys from particular practice areas fulfill the goal, listing the three highest reporting and three lowest reporting groups.

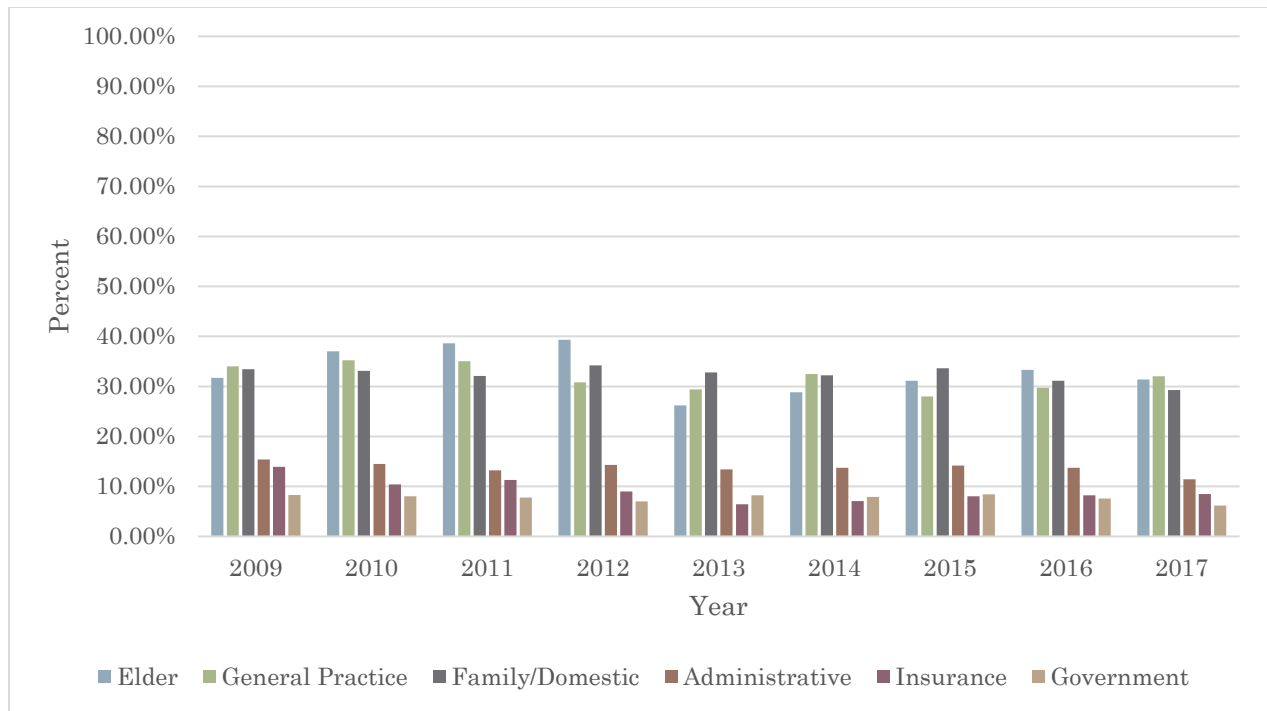


FIGURE 14. PERCENT OF FULL-TIME LAWYERS FROM SELECTED PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS MEETING THE 50-HOUR GOAL

In addition to establishing a 50-hour goal for full-time attorneys, Maryland Rule 19-306.1 also provides that:

(1) Unless an attorney is prohibited by law from rendering the legal services described below, a substantial portion of the applicable hours should be devoted to rendering legal service, without fee or expectation of fee, or at a substantially reduced fee, to:

- (A) people of limited means;
- (B) charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, or educational organizations in matters designed primarily to address the needs of people of limited means;
- (C) individuals, groups, or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties, or public rights; or
- (D) charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, or educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes when the payment of the standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would otherwise be inappropriate.

(2) The remainder of the applicable hours may be devoted to activities for improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession. **Maryland Rule 19-306.1.**

In addition to reporting the number of hours of service they have provided each year, Maryland attorneys have also reported on the type of service provided as described in the rule. Generally, about half of all services have been provided to people of limited means.

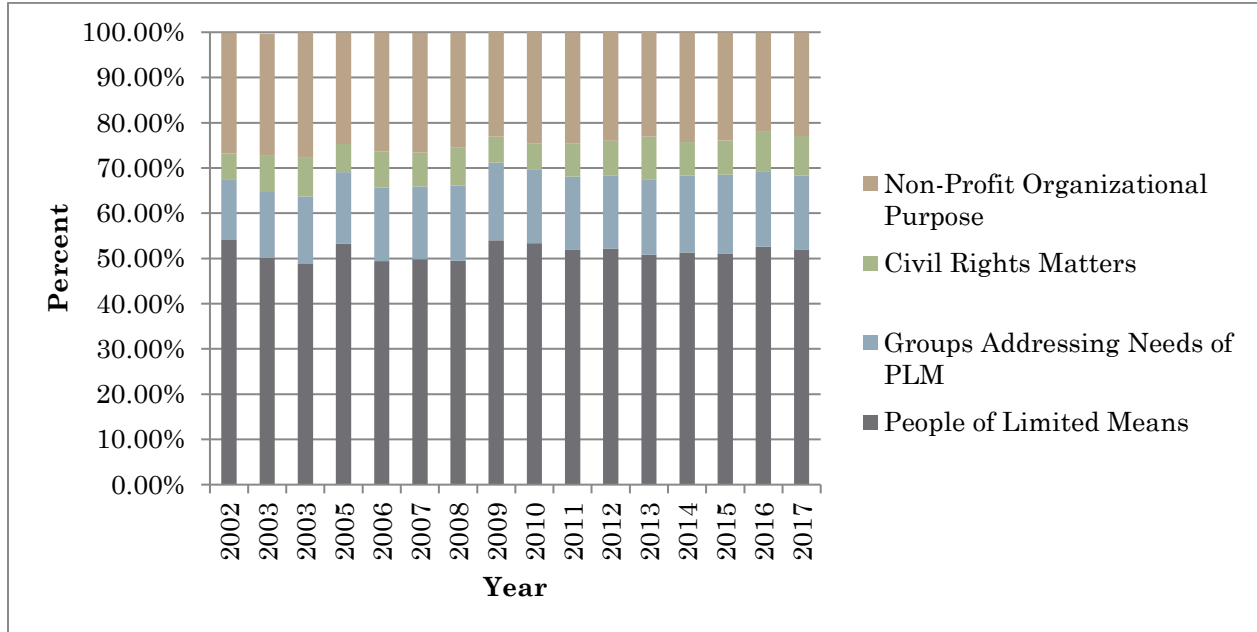


FIGURE 15. PERCENT OF HOURS DEVOTED TO TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Attorneys also report on the source of the pro bono cases they open during the year. During the reporting period, an average of 31.5 percent of hours reported to help people of limited means were referred from a pro bono or legal services agency. Attorneys who provide assistance to groups who serve the needs of persons of limited means got an average of 20.63 percent of their hours from pro bono or legal services agencies; 25.2 percent of hours devoted to civil rights matters were referred from agencies; and an average of 9.3 percent of hours devoted to nonprofits were referred from agencies.

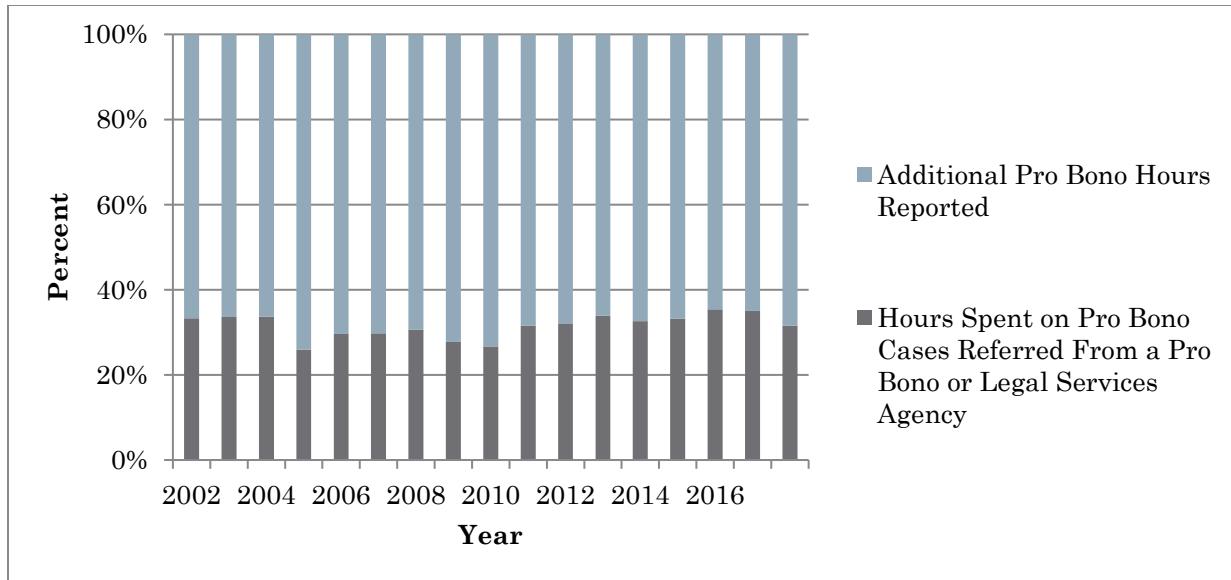


FIGURE 16. PERCENT OF PRO BONO HOURS SPENT IN SERVICE TO PEOPLE OF LIMITED MEANS REFERRED BY A PRO BONO OR LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY

Beginning in 2016, the Pro Bono Legal Service Report included questions to determine why an attorney may have obtained their clients without going through a referral agency. The largest reason given (58 percent on average) was that “clients come to me directly.” Approximately 17 percent report they were never contacted by an agency to serve.

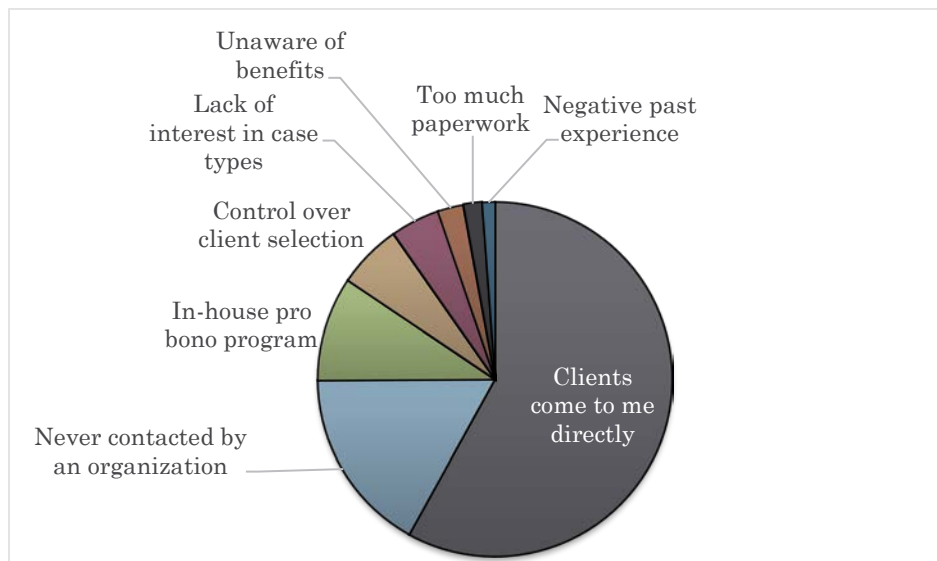


FIGURE 17. REASONS ATTORNEYS GIVE WHY THEY DID NOT PROVIDE SERVICE THROUGH A PRO BONO OR LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY (AVERAGE 2016-2017)

BARRIERS TO PRO BONO

In the last two years attorneys who reported they did not provide pro bono service have also been asked why they did not. The biggest response (47.4 percent on average) was a “lack of time.” Another 22.6 percent report they “prefer non-legal charitable work” and 8.6 percent report they are prohibited by their employer.

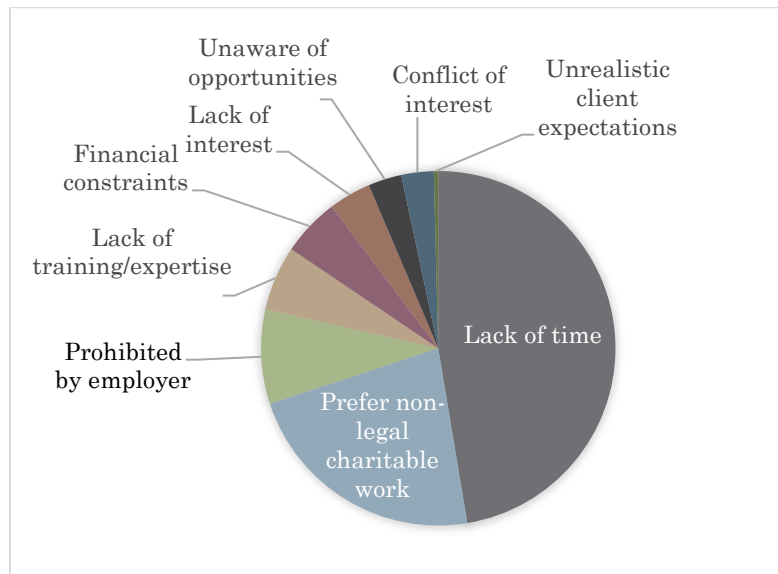


FIGURE 18. REASONS PREVENTING PRO BONO (AVERAGE 2016-2017)

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Maryland Rule 19-601 permits an attorney to discharge their professional responsibility to provide pro bono legal services by contributing financially to organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means. The total amount of financial contributions reported by Maryland attorneys has increased significantly over time, increasing by \$3.4 million between 2002 and 2017, an increase of 155 percent.

TABLE 15. TOTAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MARYLAND LAWYERS

Year	Total Financial Contributions
2002	\$ 2,208,001.00
2003	\$ 3,812,263.00
2004	\$ 2,821,759.00
2005	\$ 2,759,360.00
2006	\$ 3,220,691.00
2007	\$ 2,957,450.00
2008	\$ 2,872,919.00
2009	\$ 3,244,816.00
2010	\$ 3,661,518.73
2011	\$ 4,060,551.14
2012	\$ 4,174,712.34
2013	\$ 4,263,009.00
2014	\$ 4,275,222.00
2015	\$ 4,723,905.00
2016	\$ 4,963,446.00
2017	\$ 5,634,476.00
Average	\$ 3,728,381.20
Increase over Time	155.18%

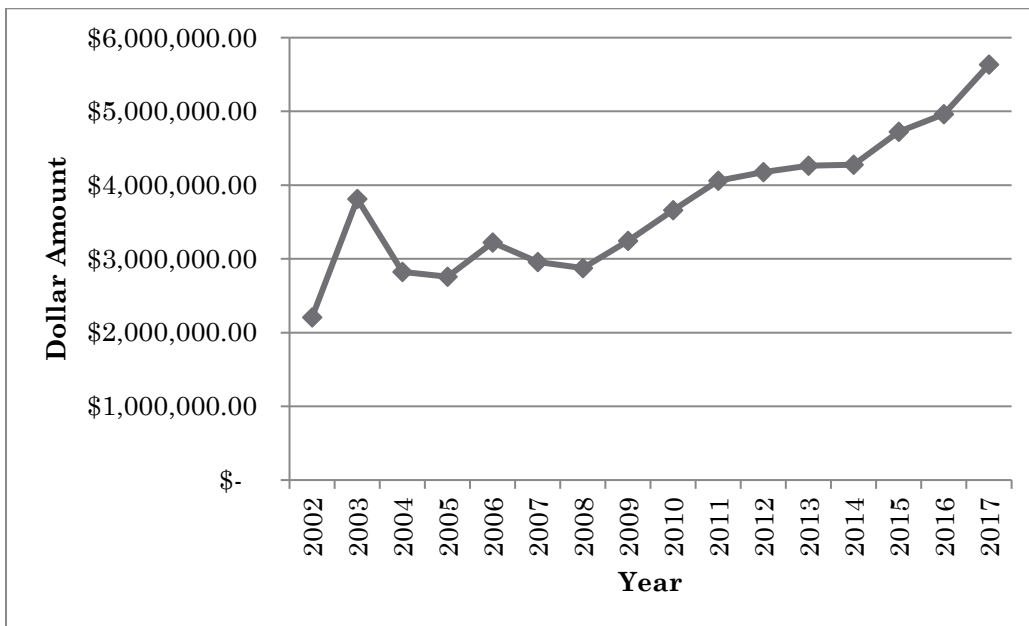


FIGURE 19. INCREASE IN TOTAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The percentage of attorneys who reported making a financial contribution increased over time, from 15.7 percent in 2002 to 20.2 percent in 2017.

TABLE 16. PERCENT OF ATTORNEYS MAKING A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Year	Percentage Making Financial Contributions
2002	15.7%
2003	16.0%
2004	18.2%
2005	17.7%
2006	17.8%
2007	17.5%
2008	17.1%
2009	19.2%
2010	16.6%
2011	19.4%
2012	18.0%
2013	17.6%
2014	17.6%
2015	17.8%
2016	19.4%
2017	20.2%
Increase	4.5%

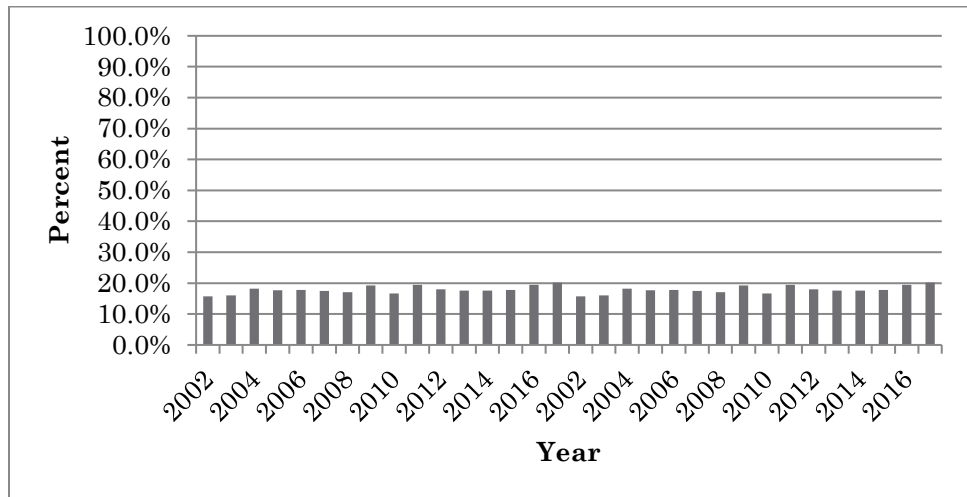


FIGURE 20. PERCENT OF ATTORNEYS MAKING A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

DONATION PAGE CONTRIBUTIONS

As part of the online reporting process, Maryland attorneys are given an opportunity to make a one-time voluntary contribution to a Maryland legal services provider. This opportunity was added beginning in the reporting cycle for 2011. These amounts are unverified. Lawyers who wish to donate enter an amount in the box for a particular organization and click the “Donate” button. They must then re-enter the amount on the organization’s direct donation page. This ensures the Maryland Judiciary does not have to accept or process payments and all funds go directly to the intended organization.

Since 2011, Maryland attorneys have made unverified donations totaling \$596,183.65.

TABLE 17. TOTAL DONATIONS MADE THROUGH DONATION PAGE (UNVERIFIED)

Year	Total Donations
2011	\$ 59,291.00
2012	\$ 70,952.00
2013	\$ 80,133.00
2014	\$ 88,697.50
2015	\$ 93,064.00
2016	\$ 100,228.00
2017	\$ 103,818.15
TOTAL TO DATE	\$ 596,183.65
Increase	75%

CONCLUSION

The Pro Bono Legal Service Reports, collected between 2002 and 2017, provide extensive information about the composition of the Maryland bar and the pro bono and financial contributions of Maryland lawyers to enhance access to justice. Those contributions have been significant.

The data suggest several further steps Maryland can take to promote pro bono practice.

- **Promote family practice.** Family and domestic law remain a high demand area, yet a relatively small percent of Maryland lawyers make family law their primary practice area. Attorneys are more likely to serve pro bono in a field with which they are familiar and have expertise. Maryland law schools, the Maryland State Bar Association, and others may want to create incentives to encourage young attorneys to enter the practice.
- **Encourage federal and state government agencies to develop pro bono programs.** Twenty percent of Maryland lawyers report they work for a government entity. Attorneys in government are least likely to serve pro bono. Identify pro bono opportunities for these lawyers that do not conflict with limitations imposed by their government service.
- **Target pro bono programs to engage both younger and older lawyers.** The service model attractive to seasoned attorneys may not fit the needs of younger attorneys. Design service opportunities specifically to attract younger attorneys who may have young families, be focused on building their career, and be more tech savvy. Design distinct service opportunities to attract seasoned attorneys who may be comfortable practicing and can simply add a pro bono case to an existing caseload.
- **Engage attorneys who practice outside the state through online or other media.** An attorney barred in Maryland but working in D.C. or Virginia may be interested in serving pro bono on a Maryland hotline, picking up client inquiries via chat or email, or drafting documents or online content for a Maryland legal service provider.
- **Collaborate with Maryland stakeholders to advocate for enhanced funding for civil legal aid organizations.** If the goal of pro bono practice is to enhance access to justice, additional steps will be necessary to realize that goal. The pro bono contributions of Maryland lawyers are significant, but the growth in service is unlikely to meet the needs of all low-income Marylanders. As long as there are few attorneys serving in public interest or legal services organizations, many Marylanders will find it difficult to address their legal needs.

Maryland attorneys represent a significant resource that enhances the lives of thousands of persons with legal needs each year. As Maryland adopts further innovations to promote pro bono practice, the data collected going forward will enable the bar, the public, and justice stakeholders to evaluate those innovations and further refine them to enhance access to justice for all.