

Instructions for Pro Bono Legal Service Report Form (for calendar year 2006)

Filing Online

Online filing of your report is strongly encouraged for a number of reasons, including ease of use, accuracy of reporting, and automatic filing confirmation. To file online, go to www.mdcourts.gov **IOLTA Reporting** on the navigation menu. When asked, enter **your ID number** provided on the report forms and on the cover letter from Judge Bell. It is recommended that you file the Pro Bono Legal Service Report first as it will retain information when you select the link to the IOLTA Compliance Report. You are also given the option of downloading an MS Word or pdf version of the reporting forms for mail-in purposes.

General

The Court expects you to *use your best professional judgment* in answering the questions. If you do not have a system for tracking pro bono service hours, then estimate the number of hours donated to the best of your ability. If you did not perform any pro bono service in a category, simply write "0" in the blank. For a list of **Frequently Asked Questions**, visit the judiciary's website at: www.mdcourts.gov under Pro Bono Resources.

The following are intended to clarify certain provisions of the reporting form:

Question # 1-Definition of Terms

"Without fee or expectation of fee"-The work must be performed with the intent of waiving your fee and making it clear to the client that there is no expectation of a fee. This does not contemplate lost or unrealized revenue due to a client's failure to pay a bill for legal services, or a lawyer who does not prevail on a contingency fee case.

1. a.-"People of limited means"-This includes individuals who either qualify for an income-based legal services program or who the lawyer knows cannot afford to pay for legal assistance.

1. d.-When payment would "significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would otherwise be inappropriate"-There are occasions when organizations have such limited resources that paying for legal fees would preclude them from providing critical services or jeopardize their existence. In these circumstances, donating legal services may qualify as pro bono.

(over)

Question # 3-Activities for improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession- Examples of such activities include: teaching legal education courses without compensation, engaging in public speaking on legal issues, serving as faculty for the MSBA Professionalism Course, or serving on court created committees (such as the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure). This list is not exhaustive, as there are many other activities that may qualify.

Question # 4-Financial Contributions-The allowance for discharging your professional responsibility by contributing financial support to organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means has always been a part of Rule 6.1. There are numerous legal services organizations as well as organizations that have a legal services component. The enclosed list of organizations funded by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation provides examples of organizations that utilize income-eligibility guidelines for legal services. These are not, however, the only entities that would qualify under this rule. For more specific information about these organizations, visit the MLSC website at: www.mlsc.org, or contact the agencies directly.

Prohibitions against the outside practice of law-The commentary to Rule 6.1 recognizes that some lawyers are prohibited by constitutional provision, statute, rule or other regulatory restrictions from engaging in representational pro bono service. When those restrictions apply, you may still fulfill your professional responsibility by engaging in non-representational pro bono service activities, or by making a financial contribution to a legal services organization.

Confidentiality-Rule 16-903 specifies that the reporting forms are confidential under the Maryland Public Information Act and may be released only by order of the Court of Appeals. The reports are filed with the Administrative Office of the Courts and will not be disseminated. Non-identifying information and data culled from the reports are not confidential.

Out of State Lawyers-All lawyers authorized to practice law in Maryland are required to file reports. Pro bono service rendered out of state counts as pro bono service under Rule 6.1. Therefore, if you are a member of the Maryland bar and practice out of state, the pro bono service you provide elsewhere counts toward the target hours.

Additional Copies of Form-You may also obtain the Pro Bono Legal Service Report Form via fax by calling **888-298-1250** and follow the instructions. You can also download the form from www.mdcourts.gov.

If you choose to file by mail, both your Pro Bono Legal Service Report and your IOLTA Compliance Report should be mailed together to:

**Maryland Access to Justice Commission, 2001E/F Commerce Park Drive,
Annapolis, MD 21401 FAX: 410-260-2504**

If you have any further questions regarding the Pro Bono Legal Service Report Form, call 1-800-396-1274 or email the Pro Bono Resource Center at reporting@probonomd.org.

**COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
LAWYER PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE REPORT**

This is a report of Pro Bono Legal Service under Rule 6.1 of the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct. **YOUR COMPLETED LAWYER PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE REPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS BY FEBRUARY 15, 2007. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN YOUR DECERTIFICATION TO PRACTICE LAW IN MARYLAND, as provided in Rule 16-903.** Your report is confidential under the Maryland Public Information Act, although the non-identifying data in it is not confidential.

THE REPORTING PERIOD IS JANUARY 1, 2006 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2006.

Please print or type your responses.

NAME: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: City or County _____, State _____, Zip _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

WHERE I PRACTICE: Please select one (1) of the following:

Private Firm _____, Corporate Counsel _____, Government Agency _____,
Legal Services Org. _____, Public Interest Org. _____, Not Practicing _____

If you selected 'Private Firm' above, please select one (1) of the following:

Solo (1 lawyer) _____ Small Firm (2-5 lawyers) _____ Medium Firm (6-20 lawyers) _____
Large Firm (21-49 lawyers) _____ Extra Large (50 lawyers and up) _____

PRIMARY PRACTICE AREA[S]: _____

PRIMARY PRACTICE JURISDICTION[S]: _____

(List your top 3 jurisdictions to include Maryland County names, Washington, DC or Out of State)

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

1. I rendered the following number of hours of pro bono legal service without fee or expectation of fee, or at a substantially reduced fee: ¹

a. To people of limited means², I donated _____ hours in total, and out of these total hours, _____ hours were spent in matters that were referred to me from a pro bono or legal services agency.

b. To charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, or educational organizations in matters designed primarily to address the needs of people of limited means³, I donated _____ hours in total, and out of these total hours, _____ hours were spent in matters that were referred to me from a pro bono or legal services agency.

c. To individuals, groups, or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties, or public rights, I donated _____ hours in total, and out of these total hours, _____ hours were spent in matters that were referred to me from a pro bono or legal services agency.

d. To 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, I donated _____ hours in total, and out of these total hours, _____ hours were spent in matters that were referred to me from a pro bono or legal services agency.

¹ Frequently Asked Question # 16, ² Frequently Asked Question # 18, ³ Frequently Asked Question # 17
(over)

2. The pro bono legal service hours reported above were rendered in the following areas of law:

3. I devoted _____ hours to participating in activities for improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession.⁴

Please specify: _____

4. I contributed a total of \$ _____ to one or more organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means.⁵

DURING ALL OR PART OF THE REPORTING PERIOD:

5. _____ I was prohibited by statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation from rendering pro bono legal service as described in Rule 6.1(b)(1) of the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct.

6. _____ I was retired or not actively engaged in the practice of law.⁶

7. _____ I was practicing law part-time.⁷

SIGNATURE OF LAWYER

DATE

To find out more information concerning pro bono opportunities, please go to www.probonomd.org, or call the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland at 410-837-9379 or 800-396-1274.

If you have a **change in your address**, you must provide that information in writing directly to the Client Protection Fund. You can contact them at: (410) 260-3635 (phone) or fax at: 410-260-3636.

RETURN THIS REPORT TO:

**Maryland Access to Justice Commission
2001E/F Commerce Park Drive, Annapolis, MD 21401
FAX: 410-260-2504**

⁴ Frequently Asked Question # 23

⁶ Frequently Asked Question # 11

⁵ Frequently Asked Question # 29

⁷ Frequently Asked Question # 11