

Final Report:
*Current Status of Pro Bono Service
Among Maryland Lawyers, Year 2009*

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*SUBMITTED BY:
ANASYS, INC.*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Maryland Rule 16-903 (effective July 1, 2002) requires all Maryland attorneys authorized to practice law in the state to annually report on their pro bono activities. This definition of pro bono service was redefined by the Court of Appeals in Rule 6.1 with an “aspirational” goal of 50 hours of service for full-time practitioners with a “substantial portion” of those hours dedicated to legal services to people of limited means. This summary report presents results from the data collected from the Pro Bono Service Report for Year 2009. Below are the highlights of the results.

- Among 34,469 lawyers, 16,304 lawyers (47.3 percent) reported some pro bono activity.
- Among full-time lawyers, 59.3% reported providing some type of pro bono service. Among all full-time lawyers, that figure was 54.8%. Among lawyers practicing in Maryland, the Eastern Region ranked at the top with 77.3 percent of their full-time lawyers reporting some pro bono hours, followed by the Western Region at 75.5 percent.
- Among full time lawyers, 22.6 percent met the goal of providing 50 or more hours of pro bono service during the year 2009.
- The Eastern Region was, again, the closest to the goal by having 39.0 percent of full time lawyers who provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services, followed by 30.7 percent in the Western Region and 30.6 percent in the Southern Region.
- Queen Anne County ranked first at 55.6 percent of full time lawyers with 50 or more pro bono hours, followed by Somerset County (50.0 percent), Talbot (47.7 percent), Caroline (46.7 percent), and Dorchester (44.0%) Counties.
- The number of lawyers participating in activities related to improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession totaled 7,236 (7,198 in 2008) lawyers for a total of 395,622.4 hours.
- The total financial contribution to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means was \$3,244,816 from 5,980 contributing lawyers. Compared to 2008, the financial contribution increased by \$371,906 (\$2,872,910 from 5,710 lawyers in 2008), at a rate of about 13 percent.
- Among lawyers who rendered pro bono service hours, 54.0 percent did so to people of limited means; 17.2 percent to organizations helping people of limited means; 5.7 percent to entities on civil rights matters; and 23.2 percent to organizations such as a “non-profit” furthering their organizational purposes. In comparison to lawyers with out-of-state addresses, lawyers with offices in Maryland rendered a higher proportion of their pro bono service to people of limited means and a lower proportion to entities on civil rights matters.

- Among all reporting lawyers, 27.7, 17.2, 22.6, and 5.9 percents of pro bono service hours rendered, respectively for the four types of beneficiaries, were rendered to cases that came from a pro bono or a legal services organization
- Among 16,304 lawyers who reported some pro bono activity, 1,167 lawyers (7.2 percent, compared to 5.7 percent last year) reported providing assistance to homeowners through the Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Project (FPPB).
- A total of 23,826 hours (2.1 percent of the total pro bono service hours) was provided for the FPPB. This amounts to a 73.4 percent increase from last year's 13,737 hours.
- By percentage of lawyers who provided assistance through the FPPB, Prince George's County ranked first at 17.9 percent, followed by Somerset (14.3%), Queen Anne (13.7 percent), and Wicomico (12.4 percent) Counties.

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Rule 16-903, annual filing of the Pro Bono Legal Service Report is mandatory for all lawyers certified to practice in the State of Maryland. The Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts is responsible for managing the reporting process and for reporting the results to the Court of Appeals. The Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts engaged ANASYS, Inc. (ANASYS) to assist them in managing the reporting process and in compiling and analyzing the data. This report summarizes the results from the Calendar Year 2009.

During Year 2010, four mailings were sent out to all licensed Maryland attorneys for reporting of their pro bono activities during the year 2009.

- First round: An initial mailing was sent out on January 8, 2010 to all 34,967 lawyers who were on the active lawyers' list as maintained by the Maryland Client Protection Fund (CPF).
- Second round: A mailing was sent out on March 17, 2010 to 5,877 lawyers who had not filed their pro bono report by March 10, 2010.
- Third round: A 'Notice of Failure to File' was sent out on May 21 to 2,133 lawyers who had not filed their pro bono report by May 15, 2009, and
- Fourth round: A 'Decertification Order' signed by the Court of Appeals sent to 238 lawyers who had failed to file the report by September 17.

This report covers the 34,469 pro bono reports received by August 31, 2010. It excludes data from those attorneys who were determined to be inactive lawyers (law clerks, deceased, etc.), and lawyers in the military. ANASYS set up and maintained a web-based online reporting system throughout the reporting period using individualized identification number for each lawyer. The overall percentage of online filing was 75.9 percent (26,159 lawyers) and the remaining 24.1 percent (8,310 lawyers) filed the pro bono report through mail. The use of online filing system has been increasing steadily due to an improved web-based online reporting system and an aggressive promotion of the value and convenience of the online filing. Overall, the quality of submitted data improved over the years as well. We were able to observe lower numbers of erroneous responses and null values (no response).

The purposes of this summary report are:

1. to identify and evaluate the status of pro bono service engaged in by Maryland lawyers;
2. to assess whether a target goal of 50 hours of pro bono service for lawyers in the full time practice of law was achieved;
3. to determine the level of financial contribution to legal services organizations by Maryland attorneys; and

4. to identify areas that need to be improved for promoting pro bono services.

II. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MARYLAND LAWYERS

This section presents an overall picture of Maryland lawyers' practices by providing descriptive statistics from the pro bono report data.

II.1. Geographical Location

The table below shows the distribution of the 34,469 lawyers by their business address as reported in the Pro Bono Legal Service Report for Year 2009. The results are compared with the distributions in previous years.

Table 1. Office Location of Lawyers

	Yr. 2009		Yr. 2008		Yr. 2007		Yr. 2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Maryland	20,195	58.6%	19,897	58.7%	19,492	58.8%	19,727	60.5%
Washington DC	8,220	23.8%	8,119	23.9%	7,858	23.7%	7,210	22.1%
Virginia	2,335	6.8%	2,227	6.6%	2,181	6.6%	2,235	6.9%
Other States	3,610	10.5%	3,559	10.5%	3,484	10.5%	3,348	10.3%
Foreign	109	0.3%	121	0.4%	112	0.3%	97	0.3%
	34,469	100%	33,924	100.0%	33,130	100.0%	32,620	100.0%

About fifty nine percent of lawyers who are certified to practice in Maryland reported a business address in Maryland, followed by 23.8 percent in Washington D.C. The distributions of office addresses remained stable since 2007.

In addition to the office address information, the pro bono report includes a question on lawyers' jurisdiction. About fifty eight percent of lawyers (19,909 lawyers) indicated they practiced in jurisdictions in the state of Maryland, thirty eight percent (13,274 lawyers) reported an out of state jurisdiction, and the remaining four percent (1,286 lawyers) did not answer the question.

Among those who reported practicing in Maryland jurisdictions, 3,248 lawyers reported 'All of Maryland' as their jurisdiction as opposed to providing county level information. Table 2 shows the reported jurisdictions by county among the remaining 16,661 lawyers who provided specific county jurisdiction information and the comparable information from the previous years. The distribution of lawyers by first-choice jurisdiction is, again, similar to the distributions in previous years. The proportion of lawyers who reported Baltimore City as their primary jurisdiction is 25.5 percent, the same percentage percent for Montgomery County, and about 14 percent for Baltimore County. The percentage of lawyers in Baltimore City has been steadily decreasing for the last 4 years.

Table 2. First-choice Jurisdiction

County Name	Year 2009		Year 2008		Year 2007		Year 2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Baltimore City	4,255	25.5%	4,348	26.2%	4,266	26.4%	4,289	27.2%
Montgomery Co.	4,252	25.5%	4,172	25.2%	4,051	25.1%	3,879	24.6%
Baltimore Co.	2,386	14.3%	2,260	13.6%	2,272	14.1%	2,134	13.5%
Prince George's Co.	1,661	10.0%	1,674	10.1%	1,583	9.8%	1,583	10.0%
Anne Arundel Co.	1,251	7.5%	1,242	7.5%	1,233	7.6%	1,193	7.6%
Howard Co.	716	4.3%	729	4.4%	680	4.2%	656	4.2%
Frederick Co.	345	2.1%	334	2.0%	316	2.0%	302	1.9%
Harford Co.	328	2.0%	325	2.0%	309	1.9%	307	1.9%
Carroll Co.	221	1.3%	220	1.3%	213	1.3%	214	1.4%
Wicomico Co.	160	1.0%	171	1.0%	165	1.0%	159	1.0%
Charles Co.	148	0.9%	147	0.9%	145	0.9%	146	0.9%
Washington Co.	137	0.8%	136	0.8%	130	0.8%	142	0.9%
Calvert Co.	113	0.7%	115	0.7%	109	0.7%	110	0.7%
Talbot Co.	102	0.6%	100	0.6%	101	0.6%	102	0.6%
Allegany Co.	100	0.6%	103	0.6%	95	0.6%	94	0.6%
Cecil Co.	91	0.5%	96	0.6%	89	0.6%	82	0.5%
Saint Mary's Co.	91	0.5%	86	0.5%	84	0.5%	84	0.5%
Worcester Co.	91	0.5%	88	0.5%	83	0.5%	80	0.5%
Queen Anne's Co.	60	0.4%	70	0.4%	73	0.5%	61	0.4%
Dorchester Co.	38	0.2%	32	0.2%	37	0.2%	35	0.2%
Garrett Co.	32	0.2%	29	0.2%	34	0.2%	31	0.2%
Kent Co.	32	0.2%	34	0.2%	39	0.2%	42	0.3%
Caroline Co.	30	0.2%	32	0.2%	37	0.2%	35	0.2%
Somerset Co.	21	0.1%	21	0.1%	16	0.1%	20	0.1%
Total	16,661	100%	16,564	100%	16,160	100%	15,780	100%

When a lawyer reported more than one county as their jurisdiction, we included up to three counties in the data file. Table 3 shows the first choice jurisdiction as well as all the jurisdictions marked by respondents regardless of their order of choice (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) for lawyers who reported specific Maryland county information. Since the results were close to those of the previous years, we present only the results of the 2009 and 2008 reporting. There were a total of 31,896 reports of jurisdictions indicating that, on average, a lawyer had close to 2 jurisdictions that he/she served in.

Table 3. All Selected Jurisdictions, 2009 and 2008

County Name	Yr. 2009		Yr. 2008	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Montgomery County	6,363	19.9%	6,227	19.7%
Baltimore City	6,047	19.0%	6,052	19.2%
Baltimore County	5,357	16.8%	5,310	16.8%
PG County	4,249	13.3%	4,242	13.4%
Anne Arundel County	2,514	7.9%	2,433	7.7%
Howard County	1,834	5.7%	1,790	5.7%
Harford County	932	2.9%	938	3.0%
Frederick County	816	2.6%	799	2.5%
Carroll County	535	1.7%	502	1.6%
Charles County	486	1.5%	446	1.4%
Calvert County	325	1.0%	340	1.1%
Washington County	325	1.0%	317	1.0%
Wicomico County	276	0.9%	263	0.8%
Worcester County	235	0.7%	234	0.7%
Saint Mary's County	232	0.7%	219	0.7%
Cecil County	222	0.7%	239	0.8%
QA County	221	0.7%	242	0.8%
Talbot County	196	0.6%	188	0.6%
Allegany County	167	0.5%	178	0.6%
Somerset County	153	0.5%	156	0.5%
Dorchester County	128	0.4%	119	0.4%
Caroline County	114	0.4%	126	0.4%
Garrett County	94	0.3%	93	0.3%
Kent County	75	0.2%	87	0.3%
	31,896	100%	31,540	100.0%

As was the case in previous reports, for the remaining sections of this report, business addresses of the lawyers are used to designate the geographical location of lawyers rather than jurisdiction. To maintain consistency, we have used identical data source and method over the years. We matched the business address ZIP code with the County code using the LandView IV that was prepared by the Bureau of Census from the U.S. Postal Service City-State file (November, 1999). This file contains all 5-digit ZIP codes defined as of November 1, 1999, the state and county FIPS codes and the Post Office names associated with them.¹ The ZIP code was matched to the Census county information using the FIPS codes. The region level data are presented to account for pro bono activities across the county line.

¹ For ZIP codes that cross county boundaries, the Post Office file assigns that ZIP code to just one of the counties rather than to each county.

II.2. Year of Bar Admittance

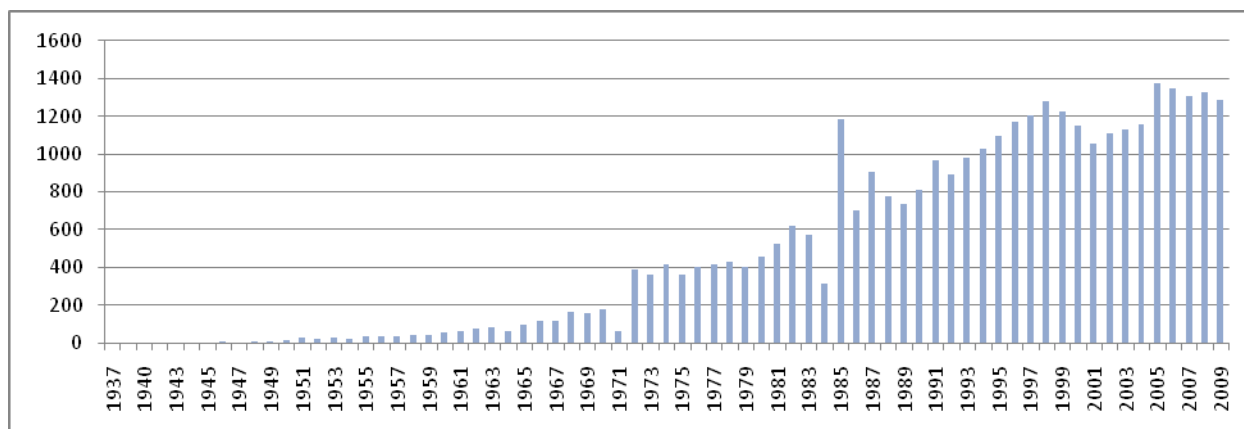
The following table shows the average and median bar admittance year for the lawyers, using the Client Protection Fund (CPF) ID number which reflects the bar admittance year (and dates) of a lawyer. Lawyers with offices in Maryland tend to have practiced law longer than lawyers whose offices are in other states. For example, the median year for bar admittance among the lawyers in Maryland is 1993, while the median for lawyers in Washington DC and Virginia is 1999 and 1997, respectively.

Table 4. Mean and Median Bar Admittance Year by States

	Maryland	Washington DC	Virginia	Other States	Foreign Countries
Number	20,195	8,220	2,335	3,610	109
Mean	1991.2	1997.1	1995.5	1994.3	1995.7
Median	1993	1999	1997	1996	1997

The following chart shows the distribution of active lawyers by their bar admittance year. The number of active lawyers admitted in 2009 totaled 1,285.

Chart 1. Number of Lawyers by Bar Admittance Year



II.3. Primary Practice Area

As is the case for jurisdiction data, we entered up to three practice areas. Table 5 shows the primary practice areas among 33,216 lawyers, excluding 1,253 lawyers who did not provide the practice area information. Overall, the results are similar to the results from previous years.

Table 5. Primary Practice Area

	First choice practice area		All selected practice areas	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Litigation	4,631	13.9%	7,209	13.7%
Other	3,847	11.6%	5,924	11.3%
Corporate/Business	3,525	10.6%	5,548	10.6%
Criminal	2,980	9.0%	3,990	7.6%
Government	2,948	8.9%	3,874	7.4%
Real Estate	2,212	6.7%	3,341	6.4%
Family/Domestic	1,845	5.6%	2,916	5.6%
Employment/Labor	1,401	4.2%	2,094	4.0%
General Practice	1,332	4.0%	2,487	4.7%
Trusts/Estates/Wills	1,241	3.7%	2,387	4.6%
Intellectual Property/Patents	1,129	3.4%	1,459	2.8%
Personal Injury	1,108	3.3%	2,254	4.3%
Administrative Law	854	2.6%	1,841	3.5%
Health	780	2.3%	1,196	2.3%
Insurance	757	2.3%	1,317	2.5%
Taxation	754	2.3%	1,222	2.3%
Bankruptcy/Commercial	641	1.9%	1,163	2.2%
Banking/Finance	547	1.6%	1,031	2.0%
Environmental	529	1.6%	837	1.6%
Elder Law	155	0.5%	360	0.7%
	33,216	100.0%	52,450	100.0%

III. PRO BONO SERVICE

In this section, we present the results of our analyses of the Year 2009 Pro Bono Report data on pro bono service provided, hours spent to improve the law and system, and financial contribution made among Maryland-certified lawyers.

III.1. Pro Bono Service by Office Location

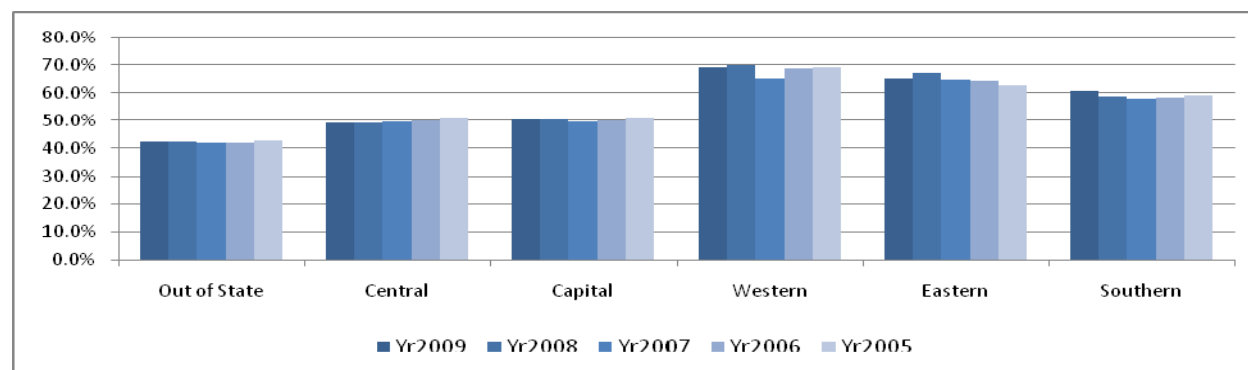
In spite of the rough economic conditions during the year 2009, the total number of pro bono hours rendered by Maryland-certified lawyers was 1,139,866 (compared to 1,109,686 pro bono hours in 2008). The increase was 30,180 hours with an increase rate of 2.7 percent. Among full-time attorneys practicing in Maryland, 59.3% reported some type of pro bono service. Among all 34,469 lawyers, 16,304 lawyers (47.3 percent) reported some pro bono activity (Table 6). Among 20,195 lawyers with offices in Maryland, 10,230 (50.7 percent) rendered pro bono hours greater than '0', compared with to 42.6 percent among 14,165 lawyers with offices in other states. The following table shows the proportion over the last 5 reporting years.

Table 6. Percent of Lawyers with Pro Bono Activity, 2005 - 2009

	Yr 2009	Yr 2008	Yr 2007	Yr 2006	Yr 2005
All Reporting Lawyers	47.3%	47.2%	47.0%	47.4%	48.0%
All Full-Time Lawyers	59.3%	54.9%	55.0%	55.9%	56.8%
Lawyers in Maryland	50.7%	50.6%	50.5%	50.9%	51.6%
Lawyers in Other States	42.6%	42.4%	42.2%	42.0%	42.8%

The proportion of lawyers who rendered pro bono service differs by geographical area within Maryland (Chart 2). As was the case in previous years, higher proportions of lawyers in rural areas of Maryland rendered pro bono services when compared to lawyers in central and capital regions.

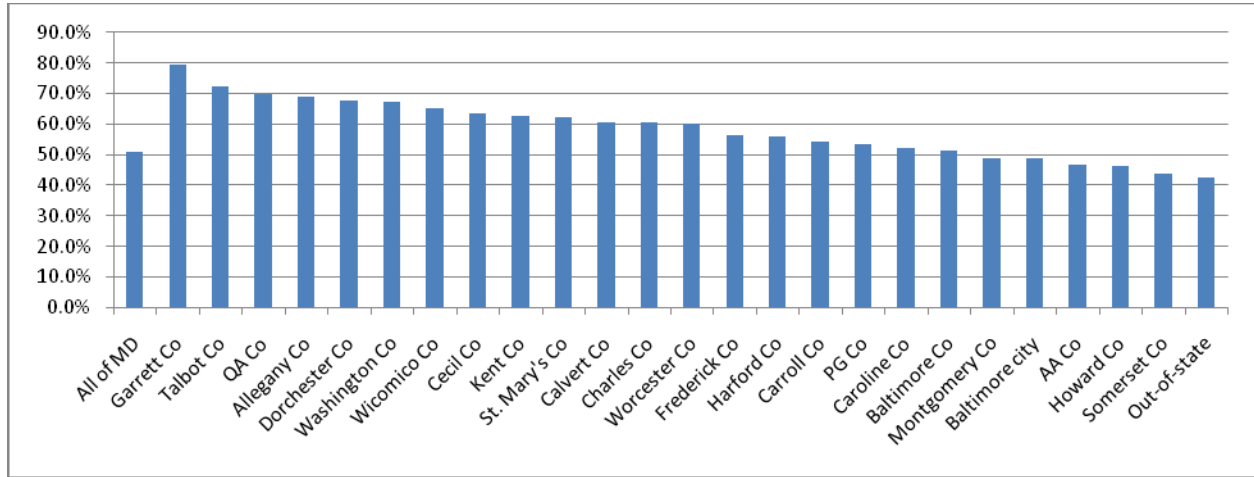
Chart 2. Percent of Lawyers with Any Pro Bono Hours by Region



We also looked at pro bono hours by county (Chart 3). Lawyers in Garrett County again reported the highest, 79.3 percent of lawyers who rendered some pro bono hours. Lawyers in

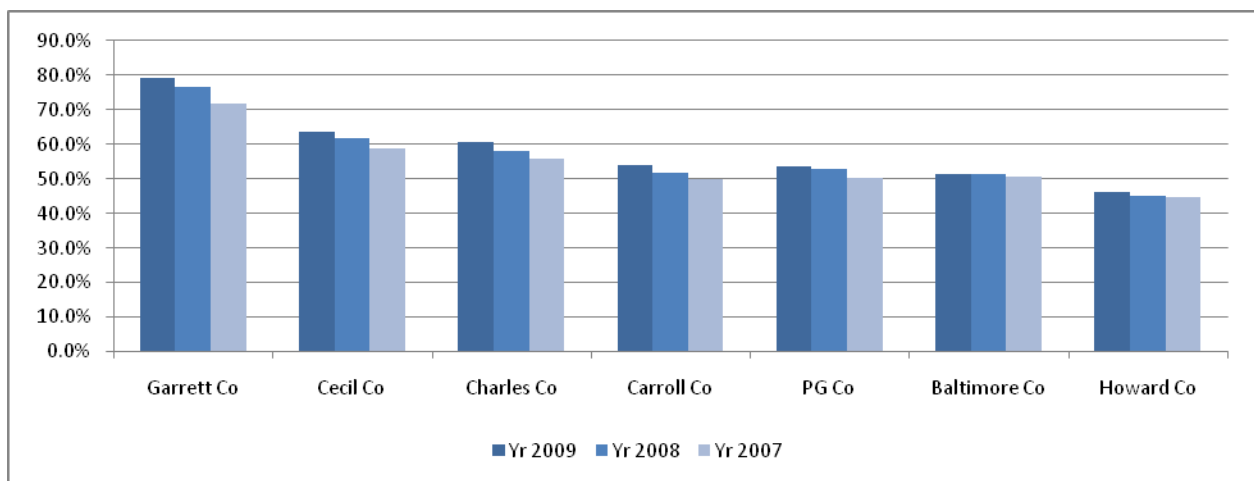
Talbot County reported the second highest (72.4 percent of lawyers who rendered some pro bono hours), followed by Queen Anne County (69.9 percent).

Chart 3. Percent of Lawyers with Any Pro Bono Hours by County



In seven Maryland counties, Garrett, Cecil, Charles, Carroll, Prince George's, Baltimore, and Howard Counties, we find consistently increasing percents of lawyers with pro bono hours over the last three years (Chart 4). Among these counties, Cecil, Carroll, and Howard increased for the last 4 years.

Chart 4. Counties with Increasing Percent of Lawyers with Pro Bono Hours over the last 3 years



Frederick County and Baltimore City are the only two jurisdictions with consistently decreasing percents of lawyers with pro bono hours over the last three years.

A target goal of 50 hours of pro bono service for lawyers in the full time practice of law was established pursuant to Rule 16-903. Accordingly, we looked into pro bono hours among full time lawyers. As with the previous years, we defined the full time lawyers as those who are not prohibited from providing pro bono services (Question 6 in the Pro Bono Service Report), are not retired (Question 7), and do not practice law part time (Question 8). Among 34,469 lawyers, 24,853 were identified as full time lawyers, answering “no” to all three questions. For the purpose of this report, we use the term ‘Other Lawyers’ for lawyers who are prohibited, or retired, or part time.

Among full time lawyers, 22.6 percent met this goal of providing 50 or more hours of pro bono service during the year 2009 (Table 7). This is a 0.2 percentage point increase from the 22.4 percent last year. The Eastern Region was, again, the closest to the goal by having 39.0 percent of full time lawyers who provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services, followed by 30.7 percent in the Western Region and 30.6 percent in the Southern Region. The lowest percentages of lawyers providing 50 or more pro bono service hours were found in the Central Region (21.4 percent) and in Other States (21.9 percent).

In terms of pro bono hours greater than ‘0’, 54.8 percent of all full-time lawyers provided some pro bono service. Again, the Eastern Region ranked at the top with 77.3 percent of their full-time lawyers reporting any pro bono hours in 2009, followed by the Western Region at 75.5 percent.

Table 7. Pro Bono Hours by Region

		All Areas	Central Region	Capital Region	Western Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	All of MD	Other States
All Lawyers	No pro bono hours	52.7%	50.7%	49.6%	30.7%	34.9%	39.0%	49.3%	57.4%
	Less than 50 hours	28.4%	31.3%	30.9%	41.9%	34.6%	38.2%	31.5%	24.0%
	50 or more hours	18.9%	18.0%	19.5%	27.4%	30.4%	22.8%	19.1%	18.6%
Full Time Lawyers	No pro bono hours	45.2%	43.0%	39.7%	24.1%	22.7%	24.5%	40.7%	51.2%
	Less than 50 hours	32.2%	35.6%	36.1%	45.3%	38.3%	44.9%	36.1%	27.0%
	50 or more hours	22.6%	21.4%	24.2%	30.7%	39.0%	30.6%	23.2%	21.9%
Other Lawyers	No pro bono hours	72.0%	69.8%	69.5%	55.2%	62.3%	65.0%	69.2%	77.0%
	Less than 50 hours	18.7%	20.7%	20.5%	29.3%	26.4%	26.3%	21.0%	14.6%
	50 or more hours	9.3%	9.5%	10.0%	15.5%	11.3%	8.8%	9.8%	8.4%
All Lawyers	No pro bono hours	18,165	6,032	3,427	83	239	149	9,965	8,200
	Less than 50 hours	9,788	3,719	2,139	113	237	146	6,367	3,421
	50 or more hours	6,516	2,137	1,348	74	208	87	3,863	2,653
Full Time Lawyers	No pro bono hours	11,237	3,643	1,832	51	107	60	5,713	5,524
	Less than 50 hours	7,994	3,011	1,669	96	181	110	5,079	2,915
	50 or more hours	5,622	1,812	1,118	65	184	75	3,262	2,360
Other Lawyers	No pro bono hours	6,928	2,389	1,595	32	132	89	4,252	2,676
	Less than 50 hours	1,794	708	470	17	56	36	1,288	506
	50 or more hours	894	325	230	9	24	12	601	293

In order to see trend over time, Table 8 shows the difference in the percentage points, from last year (reporting year 2008), of lawyers who provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services. From this table, we learn the proportion of full time lawyers providing 50 or more hours of pro bono service has been steady or increased for most of the regions, with the exception of the Central Region, and with notable increase of 3.2 percent in the Eastern Region.

Table 8. Pro Bono Hours – Change in Percentage Points from 2008

Pro bono hours		All Areas	Central Region	Capital Region	Western Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	All of MD	Other States
All Lawyers	50 or more hours	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	2.0%	-0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Full Time Lawyers	50 or more hours	0.2%	-0.4%	1.1%	0.7%	3.2%	1.6%	0.2%	0.1%
Other Lawyers	50 or more hours	0.3%	1.0%	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.6%	-2.7%	0.4%	0.2%

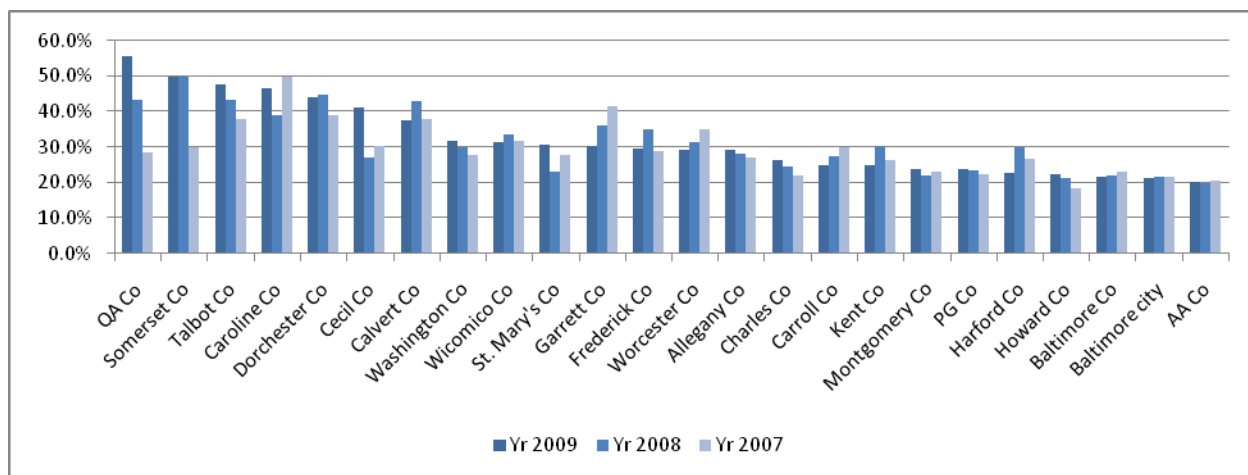
We ranked Maryland counties by percentage of full time lawyers with 50 or more pro bono hours (Table 9). Queen Anne County ranked first at 55.6 percent, followed by Somerset (50.0 percent), Talbot (47.7 percent), Caroline (46.7 percent), and Dorchester (44.0%) Counties.

Table 9. Percentage of Full Time Lawyers with 50 or More Pro Bono Hours by County

Ranking	County Name	Number of FT lawyers	No pro bono hrs	Less than 50 hrs	50 hrs or more
1	QA Co	45	15.6%	28.9%	55.6%
2	Somerset Co	12	41.7%	8.3%	50.0%
3	Talbot Co	86	14.0%	38.4%	47.7%
4	Caroline Co	15	26.7%	26.7%	46.7%
5	Dorchester Co	25	24.0%	32.0%	44.0%
6	Cecil Co	63	20.6%	38.1%	41.3%
7	Calvert Co	64	15.6%	46.9%	37.5%
8	Washington Co	110	24.5%	43.6%	31.8%
9	Wicomico Co	133	27.1%	41.4%	31.6%
10	St. Mary's Co	68	27.9%	41.2%	30.9%
11	Garrett Co	23	13.0%	56.5%	30.4%
12	Frederick Co	270	29.3%	41.1%	29.6%
13	Worcester Co	65	26.2%	44.6%	29.2%
14	Allegany Co	79	26.6%	44.3%	29.1%
15	Charles Co	113	27.4%	46.0%	26.5%
16	Carroll Co	152	32.9%	42.1%	25.0%
17	Kent Co	28	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
18	Montgomery Co	3,119	41.1%	35.0%	23.9%
19	PG Co	1,230	38.4%	37.8%	23.8%
20	Harford Co	240	28.8%	48.3%	22.9%
21	Howard Co	636	42.8%	34.9%	22.3%
22	Baltimore Co	2,162	40.1%	38.1%	21.7%
23	Baltimore city	4,175	45.7%	33.1%	21.2%
24	AA Co	1,101	43.1%	36.7%	20.2%

As noted in the previous years' reports, primarily due to the fact that these counties have only handful full time lawyers, any changes among few lawyers can affect the percentages greatly and swing the ranking widely. As was the case last year, the bottom of the list was populated with counties in the Capital and Central Regions. This result is displayed as a bar graph in Chart 5, also showing trends from the results of previous years. Counties that exhibit consistent increase for the last three years include: Queen Anne, Talbot, Washington, Allegany, Charles, Prince George's, and Howard Counties. Counties that exhibit consistent decrease include: Garrett, Worcester, Carroll, and Baltimore Counties.

Chart 5. Maryland Counties by Percentage of Full Time Lawyers with 50 or More Pro Bono Hours



III.2. Beneficiaries of Pro Bono Service

The pro bono report includes a series of questions regarding to whom (or to which organizations) the pro bono service was rendered (Question 1). The following is the list of possible responses to Question 1:

- Q1.a. To people of limited means
- Q1.b. To charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, or educational organizations in matters designed primarily to address the needs of people of limited means
- Q1.c. To individuals, groups, or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties, or public rights
- Q1.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

Table 10 shows the results from these questions. Overall, 54.0 percent of all reporting lawyers who rendered pro bono service hours did so to people of limited means (Q1.a); 17.2 percent to organizations helping people of limited means (Q1.b); 5.7 percent to entities on civil rights matters (Q1.c); and 23.2 percent to organizations such as a “non-profit” furthering their organizational purposes (Q1.d). In comparison to lawyers with out-of-state addresses, lawyers with offices in Maryland rendered a higher proportion of their pro bono service to people of limited means and a lower proportion to entities on civil rights matters.

Table 10. Distribution of Pro Bono Services by Beneficiary Type

	All Reporting Lawyers	Maryland Region					All of Maryland	Other States
		Central	Capital	Western	Eastern	Southern		
Q1.a	54.0%	51.3%	58.7%	55.9%	58.3%	59.8%	55.4%	45.5%
Q1.b	17.2%	16.2%	15.0%	17.3%	15.9%	16.0%	17.1%	17.5%
Q1.c	5.7%	5.3%	5.5%	2.4%	3.9%	4.1%	4.8%	11.2%
Q1.d	23.2%	27.3%	20.8%	24.3%	21.9%	20.1%	22.8%	25.9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The pro bono report also asks how many pro bono service hours were spent on cases that came from a pro bono or a legal services organization. Among all reporting lawyers, 27.7, 17.2, 22.6, and 5.9 percents of pro bono service hours which were rendered, respectively for the four types of beneficiaries, came from a pro bono or a legal services organization (Table 11). Among lawyers in Maryland, the percentages are lower than those reported in 2008. Consistent with the previous years’ results, lawyers with offices in Maryland tend to get pro bono cases on their own, rather than through a pro bono or a legal services organization.

Table 11. Proportion of Pro Bono Hours on Cases from a Pro Bono or a Legal Services Organization

	All Reporting Lawyers	Maryland Region					All of Maryland	Other States
		Central	Capital	Western	Eastern	Southern		
Q1.a	27.7%	27.7%	26.3%	22.7%	24.0%	24.8%	25.8%	39.4%
Q1.b	17.2%	18.1%	18.7%	9.2%	12.5%	14.7%	15.9%	25.0%
Q1.c	22.6%	19.1%	19.9%	6.7%	15.0%	15.4%	21.0%	32.4%
Q1.d	5.9%	9.5%	6.7%	4.5%	5.6%	2.7%	4.8%	12.6%

III.3. Practice Area and Pro Bono Service

We are interested in identifying the practice areas in which lawyers provide pro bono services in comparison to the most frequently practiced primary practice areas. Table 12 shows the top five primary practice areas and pro bono service areas among full time lawyers. We note that the Family/Domestic practice area is the top pro bono service area, followed by Corporate/Business, Other, Litigation, and Real Estate.

Table 12. Comparison of Practice Areas

Rank	Pro Bono Service Area	Primary Practice Area
1	Family/Domestic	Litigation
2	Corporate/Business	Corporate/Business
3	Other	Other
4	Litigation	Criminal
5	Real Estate	Government

We note that the percent of lawyers who provide pro bono services differ greatly by their practice areas. Table 13 shows that 34 percent of lawyers in General Practice provided more than 50 hours, followed by 33.4 percent among those in Family/Domestic, and 31.7 percent among those in Elder Law practice. Seventy six percent of full time lawyers in General Practice provided greater than 0 pro bono hours, followed by 75.2 percent in Family and 61.4 percent in Elder Law. As before, the bottom practice areas are: Government, Insurance, Intellectual Property / Patents, Administrative, and Banking.

Table 13. Percent of Full Time Lawyers who provide Pro Bono Service – by Practice Areas

Practice Area	Number of Lawyers	Percentage of FT lawyers with more than 50 hours of pro bono service	Percent of FT Lawyers Greater Than '0' Pro Bono Hours
General Practice	750	34.0%	76.0%
Family/Domestic	1,393	33.4%	75.2%
Elder Law	101	31.7%	61.4%
Trusts/Estates/Wills	797	29.2%	76.8%
Litigation	3,963	28.1%	62.0%
Taxation	492	26.4%	54.9%
Personal Injury	961	23.0%	64.4%
Criminal	2,196	23.0%	50.2%
Corporate/Business	2,689	23.0%	55.9%
Employment/Labor	1,101	22.4%	53.4%
Bankruptcy/Commercial	550	22.4%	68.4%
Real Estate	1,682	21.7%	65.3%
Other	2,519	21.7%	49.7%
Environmental	375	21.6%	50.1%
Health	524	20.2%	48.9%
Banking/Finance	431	16.2%	41.5%
Administrative Law	625	15.4%	41.9%
Intellectual Property/Patents/	909	15.1%	43.3%
Insurance	610	13.9%	42.8%
Government	1,969	8.3%	22.9%
Total	24,637	22.7%	55.0%

Table 14 shows the distribution of lawyers providing pro bono service in a given area by the lawyer's practice area. It shows that the largest proportion of pro bono services in a specific area is provided by lawyers in that particular practice area. For example, 41.7 percent of 'Family' pro bono service was provided by lawyers who practice Family Law and 13.6 percent by lawyers who reported Litigation practice area.

Table 14. Pro Bono Service Areas and Practice Areas

Primary practice area	Pro bono service area								
	General Practice	Family/Domestic	Elder Law	Trusts/Estates	Litigation	Tax	Personal Injury	Criminal	Corporate/Business
General Practice	15.5%	6.4%	5.1%	3.5%	2.1%	2.8%	0.5%	3.8%	3.2%
Family/Domestic	2.5%	41.7%	1.3%	2.2%	0.7%	1.1%	0.5%	2.3%	1.6%
Elder Law	0.1%	0.1%	24.7%	0.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Trusts/Estates	3.3%	1.6%	17.7%	44.0%	0.8%	13.2%	0.5%	0.5%	4.1%
Litigation	20.0%	13.6%	12.0%	9.8%	69.0%	2.8%	15.5%	17.0%	11.2%
Taxation	1.1%	0.2%	1.3%	1.0%	0.3%	47.3%	0.0%	0.2%	1.6%
Personal Injury	8.7%	4.3%	1.3%	2.3%	3.8%	0.6%	63.7%	5.9%	2.6%
Criminal	6.1%	7.4%	2.5%	2.6%	3.2%	1.4%	1.0%	58.4%	1.6%
Corporate/Business	12.2%	5.1%	8.2%	8.8%	3.6%	11.5%	1.6%	1.7%	39.6%
Employment/Labor	1.4%	1.9%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	2.0%	1.0%	0.5%	1.8%
Bankruptcy	1.4%	1.2%	0.6%	1.3%	1.2%	0.8%	0.0%	0.6%	1.6%
Real Estate	5.2%	1.9%	8.9%	6.6%	2.2%	3.4%	0.0%	1.4%	7.9%
Other	6.1%	4.5%	5.7%	5.0%	4.5%	5.0%	6.2%	2.4%	7.4%
Environmental	1.0%	0.6%	0.6%	1.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	1.3%
Health	2.2%	1.1%	2.5%	0.5%	0.8%	0.6%	1.0%	0.5%	2.4%
Banking/Finance	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	1.2%	0.5%	1.1%	0.5%	0.1%	2.8%
Administrative Law	1.5%	1.7%	1.3%	1.5%	0.6%	1.7%	0.0%	0.5%	1.5%
Intellectual Property	2.8%	2.0%	0.0%	1.2%	1.5%	1.4%	0.0%	0.7%	2.1%
Insurance	2.4%	1.4%	1.3%	2.2%	2.1%	0.6%	3.6%	1.5%	1.5%
Government	5.5%	2.3%	3.8%	3.0%	1.3%	2.2%	4.1%	1.5%	3.9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

III.4. Hours to Improve Law and Financial Contributions

In 2009, a total of 7,236 (7,198 in 2008) lawyers reported participating in activities related to improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession (Question 4) for a total of 395,622.40 hours. The total financial contribution to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means (Question 5) was \$3,244,816 from 5,980 contributing lawyers. Compared to 2008, the financial contribution increased by \$371,906 (\$2,872,910 from 5,710 lawyers in 2008), which is an increase of about 13 percent.

In the table below (Table 15), we present the proportions of lawyers who spent hours improving the law (Question 4) and who made financial contributions (Question 5). As was the case last year, we note that higher percentages of lawyers with offices in Maryland devoted hours to improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession when compared to out-of-state lawyers (21.7 percent vs. 19.9 percent for all lawyers). In comparison, smaller proportions of lawyers in Maryland, especially in the Eastern and Southern Regions, offered financial support to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means than lawyers in other states (15.4 percent vs. 20.1 percent for all lawyers).

Table 15. Percent of Lawyers who Spent Hours to Improve Law and who Made Financial Contributions

		All reporting lawyers	Maryland Region					All of MD	Other States
			Central	Capital	Western	East.	South.		
Percent of Lawyers with Hours to Improve Law (Q 4A)	All	21.0%	22.2%	20.5%	30.7%	21.9%	23.6%	21.7%	19.9%
	Full Time	24.8%	26.3%	25.8%	34.4%	26.3%	30.2%	26.3%	22.8%
	Other	11.1%	12.2%	9.8%	17.2%	12.3%	11.7%	11.3%	10.9%
Percent of Lawyers with Financial Contribution (Q5)	All	17.3%	16.8%	13.8%	16.7%	9.4%	7.9%	15.4%	20.1%
	Full Time	19.2%	18.6%	14.8%	18.9%	10.0%	7.8%	16.9%	22.2%
	Other	12.6%	12.4%	11.9%	8.6%	8.0%	8.0%	11.9%	13.8%

We also note that the percentage of lawyers who offered financial contributions differ by their practice areas. As shown in Table 16, the top contributors are in Health, Banking, Environmental, Administrative, Elder, and Other law. The bottom contributors are in: Criminal, General, Personal Injury, Government, and Insurance lawyers. The proportion of lawyers with financial contributions in Elder law was on the bottom 5th last year with 15.1 percent, but on the top fifth this year with 22.8 percent.

Comparing this distribution to the proportion of lawyers who provide pro bono service by their practice area (comparing Table 16 to Table 13), we note that lawyers in Elder law rank relatively high providing pro bono service as well as in making financial contributions. Lawyers in Banking, Administrative, and Health rank low in providing pro bono services, but rank high in making financial contributions. However, lawyers in Insurance and Government report lower participation in pro bono service as well as lower rates of financial contribution.

Table 16. Lawyers with Financial Contribution – by Practice Area

Practice Area	Number of Lawyers	Number of Lawyers with Contribution	Percent of Lawyers with Contribution
Health	524	138	26.3%
Banking/Finance	431	104	24.1%
Environmental	375	86	22.9%
Administrative Law	625	143	22.9%
Elder Law	101	23	22.8%
Other	2,519	562	22.3%
Employment/Labor	1,101	237	21.5%
Litigation	3,963	853	21.5%
Taxation	492	104	21.1%
Bankruptcy/Commercial	550	115	20.9%
Corporate/Business	2,689	534	19.9%
Trusts/Estates/Wills	797	157	19.7%
Intellectual Property/Patents/	909	172	18.9%
Family/Domestic	1,393	253	18.2%
Real Estate	1,682	297	17.7%
Insurance	610	105	17.2%
Government	1,969	334	17.0%
Personal Injury	961	154	16.0%
General Practice	750	109	14.5%
Criminal	2,196	255	11.6%
Total	24,637	4,735	19.2%

IV. PRO BONO SERVICE BY FIRM TYPE AND SIZE

The following analyses focus on 34,327 lawyers, excluding 142 lawyers with no information on the firm type. Table 17 shows the distribution of lawyers by their firm type. Overall, about fifty seven percent (19,408 lawyers) of all lawyers practiced in a private firm. Among full time lawyers, the percentage practicing in a private firm was higher at 65.6 percent, and among full time lawyers with business address in Maryland, even higher with 70.4 percent.

Table 17. Distribution of Lawyers by Firm Type

	Private Firm	Corporate Counsel	Govrmt.	Legal Services Org.	Public Interest Org.	Not Practicing	Total
All Lawyers	19,408 56.5%	2,610 7.6%	6,630 19.3%	505 1.5%	572 1.7%	4,602 13.4%	34,327 100.0%
Full time Lawyers	16,268 65.6%	2,304 9.3%	4,887 19.7%	401 1.6%	466 1.9%	454 1.8%	24,780 100.0%
Full time MD Lawyers	9,865 70.4%	1,151 8.2%	2,315 16.5%	265 1.9%	180 1.3%	232 1.7%	14,008 100.0%

Among 19,408 lawyers who reported practicing in a private firm, about 33 percent practices law solo, 21 percent in a small firm, 14 percent in a medium firm, 7 percent in a large firm, and 25 percent in an extra large firm, as Table 18 shows.

The size of the private firm varies greatly by their business location. As shown in Table 18, proportionally more lawyers with offices in Maryland practiced in smaller firms when compared to lawyers with offices in other states. Also noted is that the full time lawyers tend to work for larger firms overall, while the full time lawyers in Maryland tend to work for smaller firms. The difference is most evident among full time lawyers in extra large firms. The proportion of full time lawyers with business addresses in Maryland who work for extra large firms with 50 and more lawyers (13.3 percent) is much less than the proportion of full time lawyers in other states.

Table 18. Firm Size of Private Firms

	Unknown	Solo (1 lawyer)	Small firm (2-5)	Medium firm (6-20)	Large firm (21-49)	Extra Large firm (50 and up)	Total
Lawyers in Private Firm	107 0.6%	6,343 32.7%	4,088 21.1%	2,666 13.7%	1,294 6.7%	4,910 25.3%	19,408 100.0%
FT Lawyers in Private Firm	83 0.5%	4,334 26.6%	3,626 22.3%	2,488 15.3%	1,208 7.4%	4,529 27.8%	16,268 100.0%
FT MD Lawyers in Private Firm	53 0.5%	3,339 33.8%	2,742 27.8%	1,656 16.8%	767 7.8%	1,308 13.3%	9,865 100.0%

The pro bono activity varied greatly by firm type. As Table 19 indicates, about seventy nine percent of all full time lawyers who are in government agencies and seventy three percent of lawyers who do not practice did not provide any pro bono service, as compared to 30.1 percent of lawyers in private firms. Only 6.5 percent of lawyers in government and nine percent in Corporate Counsel provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services, as compared to 30.0 percent among lawyers in private firms. The full time lawyers in Maryland showed the same result with a bit less variability.

We also note that a higher proportion of the full time lawyers in Maryland provide pro bono services than full time lawyers in other states. But, the proportion of full time lawyers providing more than 50 hours of pro bono service is lower than those in other states, with the exception of Corporate Counsel and Government.

Table 19. Firm Type and Pro Bono Hours among Full Time Lawyers

		Private Firm	Corporate Counsel	Govt.	Legal Services Org.	Public Interest Org.	Not Practicing
FT Lawyers	0 Pro Bono (PB) Hrs.	30.1%	69.0%	78.7%	63.8%	60.9%	72.5%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	39.9%	22.0%	14.8%	22.7%	20.4%	15.2%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	30.0%	9.0%	6.5%	13.5%	18.7%	12.3%
FT lawyers in MD	0 Pro Bono (PB) Hrs.	27.9%	66.6%	74.9%	63.0%	56.1%	73.7%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	42.9%	23.6%	17.5%	24.2%	28.3%	16.4%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	29.2%	9.7%	7.6%	12.8%	15.6%	9.9%
FT lawyers in Other States	0 Pro Bono (PB) Hrs.	33.5%	71.3%	82.2%	65.4%	64.0%	71.2%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	35.2%	20.5%	12.4%	19.9%	15.4%	14.0%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	31.3%	8.2%	5.4%	14.7%	20.6%	14.9%

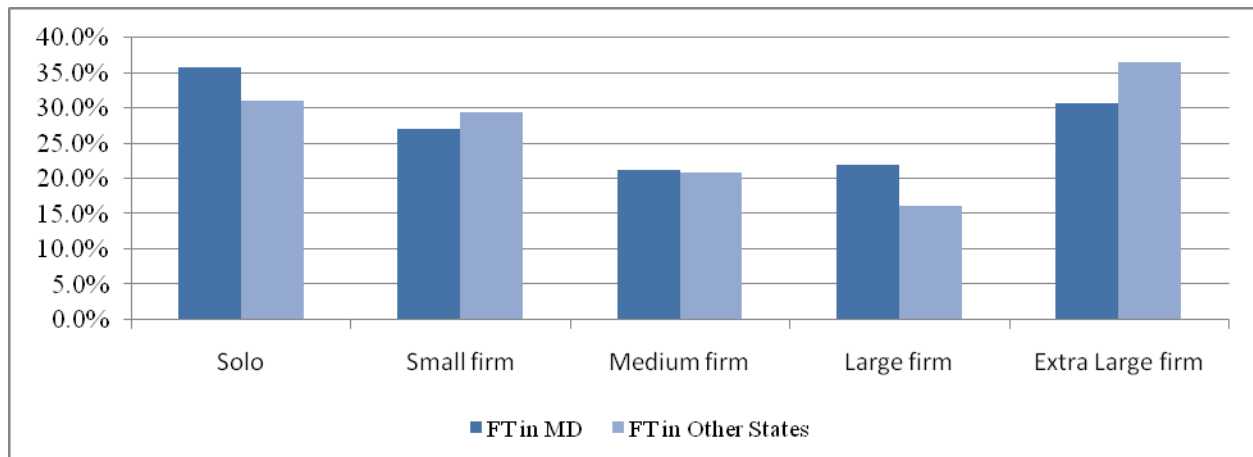
Among the full time lawyers in private firms, the size of the firm is an important determinant of pro bono hours. As Table 20 indicates, with the exception of lawyers in extra large firms, the proportion of lawyers reporting any pro bono hours decreased as the firm size increased. The significance of the firm size is more evident among full time lawyers in Maryland.

Table 20. Firm Size and Pro Bono Hours among Full Time Lawyers in Private Firm

		Unknown	Solo	Small firm	Medium firm	Large firm	Extra Large firm
FT Lawyers	0 Pro Bono (PB) Hrs.	28.9%	21.9%	28.5%	40.0%	44.5%	29.9%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	32.5%	43.4%	43.8%	38.9%	35.7%	35.2%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	38.6%	34.7%	27.7%	21.1%	19.9%	34.9%
FT lawyers in MD	0 Pro Bono (PB) Hrs.	34.0%	20.2%	27.4%	37.4%	40.0%	28.9%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	30.2%	43.9%	45.5%	41.4%	37.9%	40.4%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	35.8%	35.8%	27.1%	21.3%	22.0%	30.7%
FT lawyers in Other States	0 Pro Bono (PB) Hrs.	20.0%	27.4%	31.9%	45.2%	52.2%	30.4%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	36.7%	41.5%	38.6%	33.9%	31.7%	33.1%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	43.3%	31.1%	29.5%	20.9%	16.1%	36.6%

As above, we note that a higher proportion of the full time lawyers in Maryland provide pro bono services than those in other states. But, the proportion of full time lawyers providing more than 50 hours of pro bono service is different by their size category, as shown in Chart 6. A higher proportion of full time lawyers in Maryland who practice solo provide 50 or more pro bono hours than those on other states, while the opposite is true among full time lawyers in extra large firms.

Chart 6. Firm Size and 50 or more Pro Bono Hours among Full Time Lawyers in Private Firm



V. FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PRO BONO PROJECT (FPPB)

The economic condition of the nation during the year 2009 continued to be very difficult to many homeowners, due to the burst of the housing market. To offer greater opportunities for homeowners to preserve their homes, emergency legislation related to the foreclosure process was enacted to provide families and individuals a chance to either prevent foreclosure where feasible or mitigate their losses. The Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Project (FPPB) was initiated for homeowners who need legal counsel in the process. Accordingly, the pro bono report newly included a question in 2008 to find out what proportion of the pro bono hours that lawyers reported were spent on assisting homeowners in distress through the FPPB. In the following sections, we present the results.

Among 16,304 lawyers who reported some pro bono activity, 1,167 lawyers (7.2 percent, compared to 5.7 percent last year) reported providing assistance to homeowners for a total 23,826 hours (2.1 percent of the total pro bono service hours). The increase was 10,089 hours which amounts to 73.4 percent increase from the last year's 13,737 hours. The following Table 21 shows the practice areas in which the proportion of lawyers who assisted through the FPPB is ranked, from the highest (Real Estate) to the lowest (Environmental).

Table 21. Percent of Lawyers who Provided FPPB Assistance

Primary Practice Area	Number of Lawyers who provided Pro Bono Service	Number of pro bono lawyers who provided FPPB assistance	Percent of pro bono lawyers who provided FPPB assistance
Real Estate	1,302	215	16.5%
Bankruptcy/Commercial	417	68	16.3%
General Practice	801	119	14.9%
Family/Domestic	1,269	105	8.3%
Government	580	43	7.4%
Administrative Law	323	23	7.1%
Corporate/Business	1,791	121	6.8%
Criminal	1,253	74	5.9%
Other	1,569	92	5.9%
Banking/Finance	208	12	5.8%
Unknown	195	11	5.6%
Litigation	2,665	138	5.2%
Taxation	351	18	5.1%
Insurance	294	14	4.8%
Elder Law	84	4	4.8%
Personal Injury	682	31	4.5%
Trusts/Estates/Wills	843	35	4.2%
Employment/Labor	687	19	2.8%
Intellectual Property	443	12	2.7%
Health	318	8	2.5%
Environmental	229	5	2.2%
Total	16,304	1,167	7.2%

Higher proportions of lawyers provided the FPPB assistance in the Capital, Southern, and Eastern regions than other regions as Table 22 shows. The proportion of lawyers in Maryland who provided FPPB assistance is about 2.5 times higher than those in other states.

Table 22. Percent of Pro Bono Lawyers who Provided FPPB Assistance by Region

	Total	Maryland Region						All of Maryland	Other States
		Central	Capital	Western	Eastern	Southern	Unknown		
Number of lawyers who provided FPPB assistance	1,167	453	403	11	42	24	3	936	231
Number of Lawyers who provide Pro Bono Service	16,304	5,856	3,487	187	445	233	22	10,230	6,074
Percent of Lawyers who provided FPPB assistance	7.2%	7.7%	11.6%	5.9%	9.4%	10.3%	13.6%	9.1%	3.8%

We ranked Maryland counties by percentage of lawyers who provided assistance through the FPPB (Table 23). Prince George's County ranked first at 17.9 percent, followed by Somerset (14.3%), Queen Anne (13.7 percent), and Wicomico (12.4 percent) Counties.

Table 23. Percent of Lawyers who Provided FPPB Assistance by County

Maryland County	Number of Lawyers who provided Pro Bono Service	Number of lawyers who provided FPPB assistance	Percent of Lawyers who provided FPPB assistance
PG Co	904	162	17.9%
Somerset Co	7	1	14.3%
QA Co	51	7	13.7%
Wicomico Co	113	14	12.4%
Harford Co	212	26	12.3%
Charles Co	98	12	12.2%
St. Mary's Co	64	7	10.9%
Talbot Co	92	10	10.9%
Howard Co	476	48	10.1%
Frederick Co	233	22	9.4%
Montgomery Co	2,350	219	9.3%
Carroll Co	145	13	9.0%
AA Co	791	70	8.8%
Dorchester Co	25	2	8.0%
Baltimore Co	1,605	127	7.9%
Caroline Co	13	1	7.7%
Calvert Co	71	5	7.0%
Baltimore city	2,627	169	6.4%
Washington Co	97	6	6.2%
Allegany Co	67	4	6.0%
Cecil Co	59	3	5.1%
Worcester Co	60	3	5.0%
Garrett Co	23	1	4.3%
Kent Co	25	1	4.0%
Total	10,208	933	9.1%

We also learn that higher proportions of lawyers who are not practicing and in Legal Service Organizations provided assistance through the FPPB (Table 24).

Table 24. Percent of Lawyers who Provided FPPB Assistance by Firm Type

Firm Type	Number of Lawyers who provided Pro Bono Service	Number of lawyers who provided FPPB assistance	Percent of Lawyers who provided FPPB assistance
Private Firm	13,089	923	7.1%
Corporate Counsel	797	34	4.3%
Government	1,240	91	7.3%
Legal Services Org.	183	20	10.9%
Public Interest Org.	223	17	7.6%
Not Practicing	719	81	11.3%
Total	16,251	1,166	7.2%

Among lawyers in Private Firms, about twelve percent of lawyers who practice Solo private practice provided assistance through the FPPB, followed by Small Firm (Table 25). This is in contrast to the fact that about one percent of lawyers in extra large firms provided the FPPB assistance.

Table 25. Percent of Lawyers who Provided FPPB Assistance by Firm Size

Firm Size	Number of Lawyers who provided Pro Bono Service	Number of lawyers who provided FPPB assistance	Percent of Lawyers who provided FPPB assistance
Solo	4,552	533	11.7%
Small	2,821	253	9.0%
Medium	1,567	67	4.3%
Large	702	25	3.6%
Extra Large	3,376	42	1.2%
	13,018	920	7.1%

VI. CONCLUSION

This report provides an objective analysis of information provided by licensed Maryland attorneys reporting on their pro bono activities during 2009 in comparison to previous years. Overall, lawyers certified to practice law in Maryland reported stable or slightly higher pro bono activities as compared to the previous year. The proportion of lawyers who reported greater than '0' hours of pro bono service is up slightly, as well as the proportion of lawyers who reported 50 or more hours of pro bono service. A higher proportion of full time lawyers in Maryland provided pro bono services than full time lawyers in other states. But, the proportion of full time lawyers providing more than 50 hours of pro bono service is generally lower than those in other states.

There were many positive developments as well. In 2009, more lawyers reported participating in activities related to improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession. The financial contributions to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means were made by more lawyers. The financial contribution amount was significantly increased by about 13 percent from last year.

The Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Project (FPPB) was initiated for homeowners who need legal counsel in the process of preventing foreclosure. In 2008, the pro bono report newly included a question to find out what proportion of the pro bono hours that lawyers reported were spent on assisting homeowners in distress through the FPPB. This year's results show that 7.2 percent of lawyers (about 1.5 percent increase from last year) who provided pro bono service reported providing assistance to homeowners. The total number of hours to provide assistance to homeowners was 23,826 hours (2.1 percent of the total pro bono service hours). The increase was 10,089 hours which amounts to a significantly higher increase (73.4 percent) from the last year's result

.Compared to final reports of the previous years, this report intended to take a closer look at full time lawyers in Maryland who provide 50 or more pro bono hours. The results show that more effort should be placed not only to promote pro bono service hours to lawyers who do not provide pro bono services - but also to convince full time lawyers in Maryland to provide more than 50 hours of service. We note that there are hurdles to overcome – such as 1) more Maryland lawyers are in smaller firms than those in other states, 2) a sizeable proportion of Maryland lawyers is in Government or in other practice areas not traditionally amenable ²⁴ providing pro bono services. But, we also note a much higher level of effort among lawyers in Elder Law as compared to previous year's results. A case study on lawyers in Elder Law could provide a valuable insight for policy development implications.

As the years progress, the pro bono report data have been able to provide concrete answers to many questions, showing changes in pro bono activities among Maryland lawyers and the impact of new pro bono initiatives. The data will serve as a valuable analytical tool to assist the Judiciary in determining how far or close the Maryland Bar is in meeting the aspirational pro bono service goals outlined in the Rules.