



indybar
Indianapolis Bar Association

Pro Bono Standing Committee
2011 Annual Report

The Indianapolis Bar Association is committed to providing pro bono services that benefit the residents of Indianapolis. Within this Annual Report you will find information on the IndyBar's different pro bono programs as well as information about those who have benefited from the services. We look forward to continued partnerships with attorneys, nonprofit organizations and the residents of Indianapolis in order to ensure equal access to justice for everyone in Indianapolis.



A gentleman seeking legal advice checks in at the Ask a Lawyer registration desk at the Indianapolis Central Library Ask a Lawyer location.

"Although my pro bono public service must comply with the limits in the Code of Judicial Conduct, the IndyBar's superlative staff and members help me coordinate the IndyBar's Hospice and Palliative Care program to bring together some of Indianapolis' finest legal practitioners with underrepresented patients in our community's care facilities. Connecting our community's high-quality attorneys with patients to address their legal needs while they face the most serious battles of their lives allows our neighbors to focus their strength and attention on the quality of their lives, and gives caregivers a tool to help the patient's peace of mind."

—Hon. Mary L. Davidsen, Office of Environmental Adjudication

	Volunteers	Hours Donated	People Served
2011	389	1,555	1,702
2010	335	1,210	1,582

"As a site coordinator (for the Ask a Lawyer Program), I believe I assist with the positive promotion of legal professionals by being a welcoming liaison between licensed attorneys and the community at large. When someone comes to the site with an anxious look on their face and a grocery sack full of documents or just wandered by on their way to the (library) restroom with a legal question, they usually want the same thing—someone just to listen to them and to hear their side of the story. The more I volunteer and give of my time and my firm's time, the more I improve my ability to connect with people by helping someone receive the legal advice they seek."—Angela R. White, Cantrell Strenski & Mehringer LLP



Mindy L. Boehr, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, provides legal advice at the 2011 Ask a Lawyer program.

Pro Bono Programs

2011

Ask A Lawyer

Held semi-annually, attorneys provide basic advice, face-to-face with the public. Attorneys are scheduled for two-hour shifts. Paralegals participate for as site coordinators.

Bankruptcy Help Line

Members of the IndyBar Commercial & Bankruptcy Law Section answer calls two hours per month providing advice on bankruptcy issues.

Homeless Project

For more than a decade, IndyBar volunteers have provided legal counseling to homeless individuals and families. Teams of two attorneys visit local homeless shelters to provide basic legal counsel; volunteers typically work 4 evenings per year.

Hospice Program

Attorneys assist with legal issues of low-income individuals in hospice care through Wishard, IU-Methodist and St. Francis hospitals and the Abbie Hunt Brice Home.

Legal Line

Held the second Tuesday evening of each month (except December), attorneys answer legal questions over the phone at the Indianapolis Bar Association office.

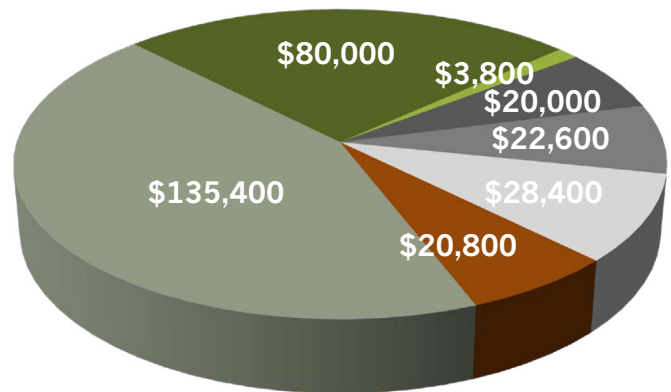
Low Asset Wills

Held from January 1- March 31 each year; volunteers help low-income parents who need provisions and guardians named for their children in case of their death, as well as low-income, low-asset seniors.

Marion Co. Superior Court Pro Bono Program

Attorneys take ONE case at a time, in family law or as a guardian ad litem. Judges screen litigants and use a web-based database to assign volunteers from the bench.

“The Low Asset Will project is a phenomenal program providing disability and death planning to clients who could not otherwise afford this important work. Individuals with low means often have the same, if not more of a need for planning, as clients with assets, especially disability planning. I am so glad to be a part of a program that helps meet the needs of this underserved segment of the population. Rebecca W. Geyer, Hollingsworth & Zivitz PC



\$311,000

Estimated Value of Services Provided

Mission Statement

The Indianapolis Bar Association's Pro Bono Standing Committee promotes equal justice by developing, facilitating, coordinating, supporting, and improving **programs and services designed to serve the legal needs of disadvantaged residents** of the City of Indianapolis and its surrounding communities while providing opportunities for the **Indianapolis Bar Association's members to fulfill their professional duty and personal responsibility** to provide pro bono services to those in need.

“Participating in the Legal Line program is a great way to provide a needed service to the community, bond with my associates and partners and challenge my legal knowledge in areas of law that touch real people. I have been amazed at the breadth of legal issues people encounter.” Don Smith, Riley Bennett & Egloff LLP

Do you want to help provide valuable Pro Bono Services to our community or do you need more information about a Pro Bono Program offered by the IndyBar?

Contact Caren Chopp at the Indianapolis Bar Association at 317.269.2000 or cchopp@indybar.org.