VBA Pro Bono Summit 2010

Materials Documenting the Compelling Need for Increased Pro Bono Assistance in Virginia

Prepared by John E. Whitfield, Executive Director, Blue Ridge Legal Services
The Public’s Perceptions about How Different Groups are Treated in Virginia Courts

What sort of treatment do you think the following groups of people receive in Virginia Courts, compared to other groups?

Note that a majority of the public believes that the poor receive worse treatment in Virginia courts, compared to other segments of the population.

Source: 2007 Citizens Survey, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia.

Prepared by John E. Whitfield, Executive Director, Blue Ridge Legal Services
Correlation Between Representation and Favorable Outcomes for Tenants in Landlord -Tenant Cases

Study #5: Seron, Carroll, Greg Van Ryzin, Martin Frankel, and Jean Kovath. 2001. *The Impact of Legal Counsel on Outcomes for Poor Tenants in New York City’s Housing Court: Results of a Randomized Experiment*. Law and Society Review 35(2): 419-34.
Correlation Between Representation and Custody Outcomes

Correlation Between Representation and Favorable Outcomes in Other Types of Cases Frequently Involving Low-Income Litigants

Social Security Appeals

Unemployment Claims

Immigration Removal

Domestic Violence

Source: Russell Engler, Connecting Self-Representation to Civil Gideon: What Existing Data Reveal About When Counsel is Most Needed, to be published in an upcoming edition of the Fordham Law Review. Virtually all of the outcome studies cited in these materials were referenced in this very helpful work by Professor Engler, who is currently Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Studies at New England College of Law.

Prepared by John E. Whitfield, Executive Director, Blue Ridge Legal Services
The Documented Unmet Civil Legal Needs of the Poor

Sources: 1994 ABA National Legal Needs Study
1991 Study on the Legal Needs of the Indigent in Virginia, commissioned by the Virginia State Bar and funded by the Virginia Law Foundation
2007 Virginia Legal Needs Study, commissioned by the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV) and funded in part by the Virginia Law Foundation

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Blue Ridge Legal Services
Number of Persons Per Attorney
All Virginia Attorneys Compared with Legal Aid Attorneys

Sources:
Number of active Virginia Lawyers (27,901), VSB Membership Report, 4/1/10.
Number of Virginia Legal Aid Attorneys (157), LSCV Grant Applications, 2009-2010.
Virginia Population figure (overall population, 7,882,590) and poverty population (804,024), US Census website.
Federal LSC Funding Levels Since 1975

Source: Legal Services Corporation

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Government Per Capita Spending on Civil Legal Services for the Poor

Declining IOLTA Revenue in Virginia 2006-2010

Source: Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV)
Number of Cases Closed by Legal Aid Staff and their Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Programs By Region- FY 2008-2009

Source: Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV)
Percentage of Attorneys Who Participated in Legal Aid-Related Pro Bono Work, FY 2008-2009

Sources: Number of PAI Attorneys Participating in Legal Aid PAI Programs, LSCV
Number of Attorneys per Region, VSB Membership Report

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