



**Indiana Pro Bono Commission
One Indiana Square, Suite 530
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**Indiana Bar Foundation
230 East Ohio Street, 4th Floor
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

2007 INTERIM REPORT

In the space provided below, please provide a description of how your pro bono district has been able to improve its performance during the first half of 2007, based on its 2007 funding level. In answering this question, please (1) discuss the specific improvements made in your program (e.g., additional staffing or capabilities), and (2) identify any resulting indicators of improvement in your district's ability to provide pro bono representation, including but not limited to the number of additional pro bono attorneys now participating in your district; the number of additional pro bono attorneys who have provided at least 50 hours of pro bono service to date during 2007; any increase in the number of cases and/or clients receiving pro bono legal services (compared to the number of such cases and/or clients at this point in time during 2006); and any increase in the number of counties in your district providing pro bono representation. Please also discuss any problems or obstacles your district is encountering in meeting its goals during 2007, and the reasons for such problems or obstacles. If you need additional space for this answer, please include this information on the one supplemental, explanatory page identified on page 8.

Heartland hired a part-time attorney to handle intake and legal advice which has given the Plan Administrator time to devote to new projects, trainings and recognitions throughout the district. In February, the Chief Justice joined Heartland and the Johnson County judiciary in recognizing 63 volunteer attorneys with a certificate of appreciation signed by the Chief Justice and Judge Mark Loyd, along with a gift from Heartland. All attorneys in Johnson County were invited and were given free CLE as an incentive to join the recognized volunteers. The Plan Administrator has been working with the Boone Circuit court Judge to organize a county pro bono program. Heartland is coordinating a CLE program and lunch in November, along with remarks from guest speaker Chief Justice Shepard, to urge lawyers to volunteer to take a pro bono case.

Heartland has launched a pilot project in Hamilton County entitled Lawyers Helping Families, which utilizes volunteers through limited representation on specific family law cases in a new one once a month night court. This project will enable an indigent party in a family law case to request attorneys' fees from the opposing party and then hire a reduced or regular fee attorney. Since there are not enough family law attorneys to handle all of the pro bono cases, this project's goal is to increase indigent client representation and to increase pro bono participation through the use of limited representation. A free CLE training program was held in Hamilton County in April, and over 20 lawyers attended and agreed to participate in one evening session. Paralegals will also be utilized in the night court session. The Plan Administrator is coordinating the client intake, case management and volunteer coordination, and any preliminary legal work is being handled by a contract attorney paid on an hourly basis.

Heartland has been working with numerous agencies and Indiana Legal Services in its Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program to assist ex-offenders in obtaining a driver's license and other legal assistance. This program was funded through Heartland's cy pres grant. Heartland has been in contact with bar association presidents and judiciary in Morgan, Shelby, and Hancock counties to discuss hosting training/ recognition events. In the 2007 calendar year, five attorneys have reported spending over 50 hours on a pro bono case that they reported closing in 2007.