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... Your lifeline to legal help

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2012
Annual Report

Mission Statement: The Legal Project believes that all people, regardless of income, gender, disability, race, religion, age, sexual orientation or ethnicity should have access to legal services. This belief reflects a deep commitment to fairness and equal justice under the law.

Based upon these beliefs, the mission of The Legal Project is to make the law more accessible to those in need, to increase the legal community's involvement in *pro bono* work, and to serve as a resource on legal issues and pro bono work. Further, we feel a special responsibility to women and others who may have difficulty obtaining legal services.

Projects and Services

The Legal Project addresses the need for non-criminal legal assistance by providing innovative, cost effective services that are collaborative in nature and that focus on unmet needs in the community. In 2012, in addition to our six staff attorneys, over 200 pro bono attorneys we served a total of 3,195 clients.

Legal Representation:

- ◆ **The Domestic Violence Legal Connection** provides *pro bono* and reduced fee civil legal representation and free legal consultations both onsite and at domestic violence shelters. In 2012, 1,013 victims of domestic violence were served.
- ◆ **Homeowner Protection Project** provides pro bono legal representation to homeowners who are facing foreclosure. In 2012, 49 homeowners were provided with legal consultations and/or representation.
- ◆ **Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance (AHAA)** provides free and low cost legal representation to low income home purchasers. In 2012, 11 individuals and families were served.
- ◆ **Wills Project** provides legal representation to low income persons in need of end of life legal assistance. 95 individuals were helped through this program in 2012.
- ◆ **Bankruptcy and Credit Program** provides free legal consultations and free and low cost legal representation to individuals and families struggling with debt. This program served 234 individuals in 2012.
- ◆ **The Pro Bono Appeals Project** is a collaboration of the New York State Bar Association Committee on Courts Appellate

Jurisdiction, The Legal Project and the Rural Law Center of New York and provides pro bono legal representation to individuals in the state appellate courts. In 2012, 10 individuals were assisted through this program.

Legal Advice and Information:

- ◆ **The Legal Clinic Program** provided free, private, and confidential consultations with experienced attorneys at local community agencies to 659 people in 2012.
- ◆ **Veterans Clinics** provided free, private, and confidential consultations to veterans with experienced attorneys at local community agencies to 32 people in 2012
- ◆ **Uncontested Divorce Clinics** provide assistance with the preparation and filing of the necessary documents to low income individuals who are representing themselves in divorce matters. In 2012, 94 individuals were assisted.
- ◆ **The Small Business Legal Network**, offering free legal consultations and workshops to low income, minority or women business owners, assisted 111 clients .
- ◆ **Legally Speaking Workshops** offer free, custom designed education programs to community groups and organizations about any legal topic. In 2012, 861 individuals participated in legal workshops.
- ◆ **Immigration Legal Network** offers free, private, and confidential legal consultations with pro bono attorneys and educational programs on various immigration issues. In 2012, 26 individuals were served.

Services to Professionals:

- ◆ **Attorney Training** of local attorneys, in exchange for *pro bono* work, increases the availability of legal assistance with domestic violence, affordable housing, wills and bankruptcy matters.
- ◆ **Military Families Project** provides technical assistance and training to attorneys and advocates, assisting them in working with victims connected with the military.

Annual Financial Report 2012

Income:

Foundations & Corporations	14%
Government Grants	73%
Fundraising	13%

Expenses:

Personnel	74%
Program Direct Costs	17%
Administrative	7%
Fundraising	2%