



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PRO SE LITIGATION



February 1-3, 2007, Houston Texas

MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT (MVLP)

State: Mississippi

Name of Program & Brief Description: The **Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLP)** represents the nation's first formal association of a state Bar with representatives of the Legal Services Corporation. This association has resulted in a professional and productive partnership which unselfishly serves the neediest of Mississippi's poor.

The Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project exists solely for the purpose of providing free legal assistance for Mississippians unable to afford an attorney. All of its activities are of a charitable nature. It serves a very important public service and in doing so enables many individuals, who would otherwise have to forego legal representation, to have competent counsel. Through the Project, Mississippi Bar members agree to take the cases of low-income Mississippians on a pro bono basis after potential clients have been screened by the Legal Services offices.

In keeping with the Project's policy to provide community education, the Director of the Project routinely addresses community groups on a variety of issues affecting low-income citizens. The MVLP also organizes continuing legal education seminars for its volunteers on an annual basis. These seminars focus on legal issues affecting the disadvantaged. Faculty members donate their time and expertise to make sure that the volunteers are aware of the most recent case developments in poverty law. These seminars help insure that the clients receive the highest quality legal services.

Date Program Was Established: September 1982

Cost/Funding Source(s): Legal Service Corporation Sub-grant; Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA); Pro Hac Vice Funds; Civil Legal Assistance Fund; Mississippi Legal Services Foundation; private donations

Program Sponsor(s): Mississippi Center for Legal Services; North Mississippi Rural Legal Services; and The Mississippi Bar

Partnerships: Mississippi Center for Legal Services; North Mississippi Rural Legal Services; The Mississippi Bar; Mississippi Center for Justice; Hinds County Bar Association; Jackson Young Lawyers

Target Group(s)/No. Clients Served per Year:

- Mississippians living at or below the poverty line
- Women and children
- Approximate 2500 clients served per year

Staffing (FTE, Part-Time, Titles):

Executive Director (F/T), Paralegal (F/T),
Administrative Assistant (F/T),
Office Support Clerk (F/T), Office
Assistant (P/T), AmeriCorps Attorney (P/T)

Contact Person and Contact Information:

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