

***Final Report:***  
***Current Status of Pro Bono Service***  
***Among Maryland Lawyers, Year 2015***

*NOVEMBER 7, 2016*

*SUBMITTED BY:*  
*ANASYS, INC.*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<i>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>I. INTRODUCTION</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>II. GENERAL PRACTICE CHARACTERISTICS OF MARYLAND LAWYERS</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>II.1. Geographical Location</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>II.2. Year of Bar Admittance</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>II.3. Primary Practice Area</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>III. PRO BONO SERVICE</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>III.1. Pro Bono Service by Office Location</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>III.2. Beneficiaries of Pro Bono Service</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>III.3. Practice Area and Pro Bono Service</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>III.4. Hours to Improve Law and Financial Contributions</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>IV. PRO BONO SERVICE BY FIRM TYPE AND SIZE</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>V. VOLUNTARY DONATION TO MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDER</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>VI. CONCLUSION</i>	<i>19</i>

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## **TABLES AND CHARTS**

Table 1.	Office Location of Lawyers	2
Table 2.	First-choice Jurisdiction	3
Table 3.	Mean and Median Bar Admittance Year by States	4
Table 4.	Primary Practice Area	5
Table 5.	Percent of Lawyers with Pro Bono Activity, 2011-2015	6
Table 6.	Pro Bono Hours by Region	8
Table 7.	Pro Bono Hours – Change in Percentage Points from 2014	8
Table 8.	Percentage of Full Time Lawyers with 50 or More Pro Bono Hours by County	9
Table 9.	Distribution of Pro Bono Services by Beneficiary Type	11
Table 10.	Proportion of Pro Bono Hours on Cases from a Pro Bono or a Legal Services Organization	11
Table 11.	Comparison of Practice Areas	12
Table 12.	Percent of Lawyers who provide Pro Bono Service - by Practice Area	12
Table 13.	Percent of Lawyers who Spent Hours to Improve Law and who Made Financial Contributions	13
Table 14.	Lawyers with Financial Contribution – by Practice Area	14
Table 15.	Distribution of Lawyers by Firm Type	15
Table 16.	Distribution of Lawyers in Private Firms by Firm Size	15
Table 17.	Firm Type and Pro Bono Hours among Full Time Lawyers	16
Table 18.	Firm Size and Pro Bono Hours among Full Time Lawyers in Private Firm	16
Table 19.	Unconfirmed Donations to Maryland Legal Service Providers	17
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Chart 1.	Number of Lawyers by Bar Admittance Year	4
Chart 2.	Percent of Lawyers with Pro Bono Hours by Region	6
Chart 3.	Percent of Lawyers with Pro Bono Hours by County	7
Chart 4.	Maryland Counties by Percentage of Full Time Lawyers with 50 or More Pro Bono Hours	10

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Maryland Rule 19-503 requires all Maryland attorneys authorized to practice law in the state to annually report on their pro bono activities. This definition of pro bono service was redefined by the Court of Appeals in Rule 19-306.1 with an “aspirational” goal of 50 hours of service for full-time practitioners with a “substantial portion” of those hours dedicated to legal services to people of limited means. This summary report presents results from the data collected from the Pro Bono Service Report for Year 2015. Below are the highlights of the results.

- Among 39,370 lawyers, 16,573 (42.1 percent) reported some pro bono activity. Maryland lawyers provided 1,143,992 hours of pro bono services.
- Among full-time lawyers in Maryland, 53.7 percent provided pro bono service. Lawyers in the Eastern Region ranked at the top with 72.8 percent of their full-time lawyers reporting some pro bono hours, followed by the Western Region at 67.1 percent.
- Among full time lawyers in Maryland, 20.3 percent met the goal of providing 50 or more hours of pro bono service.
- The Eastern Region was the closest to the goal by having 32.5 percent of full time lawyers who provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services, followed by 24.0 percent in the Western Region and 22.4 percent in the Southern Region.
- Somerset County ranked first at 53.8 percent of full time lawyers with 50 or more pro bono hours, followed by Queen Anne’s (44.6 percent), and Caroline (36.8 percent) Counties.
- The number of lawyers participating in activities related to improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession totaled 7,392 lawyers for a total of 379,837 hours.
- The total financial contribution to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means was \$4,723,905 from 7,006 contributing lawyers.
- Among lawyers who rendered pro bono service hours, 51.1 percent did so to people of limited means; 17.4 percent to organizations helping people of limited means; 7.6 percent to entities on civil rights matters; and 23.9 percent to organizations such as a “non-profit” furthering their organizational purposes. In comparison to lawyers with out-of-state addresses, lawyers with offices in Maryland rendered a higher proportion of their pro bono service to people of limited means and a lower proportion to entities on civil rights matters.
- About eighty two percent of all full time lawyers who are in government agencies and seventy five percent of lawyers who do not practice did not provide any pro bono service, as compared to 35.4 percent of lawyers in private firms. Only 5.4 percent of lawyers in government and 7.5 percent in Corporate Counsel provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services, as compared to 26.5 percent among lawyers in private firms.

- Online filing lawyers are asked to consider making one-time voluntary donation to a Maryland legal services provider upon completing online reports. A total of 919 donations were pledged from 818 lawyers, via this web page, in the amount of \$93,064, up 4.0 percent from last year's amount based on 874 donations from 773 lawyers.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to Rule 19-503, annual filing of the Pro Bono Legal Service Report is mandatory for all lawyers certified to practice in the State of Maryland. The Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts is responsible for managing the reporting process and for reporting the results to the Court of Appeals. The Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts engaged ANASYS, Inc. (ANASYS) to assist them in managing the reporting process and in compiling and analyzing the data. This report summarizes the results from Calendar Year 2016.

During Year 2016, four mailings were sent out to all licensed Maryland attorneys for reporting of their pro bono activities during the year 2015.

- First round: An initial mailing was sent out by January 10th, 2016, to all 39,748 lawyers who were on the active lawyers' list as maintained by the Maryland Client Protection Fund (CPF).
- Second round: A mailing was sent out on March 23, 2015, to 6,069 lawyers who had not filed their pro bono report by March 15.
- Third round: A 'Notice of Failure to File' was sent out on May 25 to 2,082 lawyers who had not filed their pro bono report by May 18, and
- Fourth round: A 'Decertification Order' signed by the Court of Appeals was sent to 108 lawyers who had failed to file the pro bono report by September 22.

This report covers the 39,370 pro bono reports received by September 22, 2016. It excludes data from those attorneys who were determined to be inactive lawyers (law clerks, deceased, etc.), and lawyers in the military. ANASYS set up and maintained a web-based online reporting system throughout the reporting period using individualized identification numbers for each lawyer. The overall percentage of online filing was 84.9 percent (33,440 lawyers) and the remaining 15.1 percent filed the pro bono report through mail. The use of the online filing system has been increasing due to an improved web-based online reporting system and an aggressive promotion of the value and convenience of online filing.

The purposes of this summary report are:

1. to identify and evaluate the status of pro bono service engaged in by Maryland lawyers;
2. to assess whether a target goal of 50 hours of pro bono service for lawyers in the full time practice of law was achieved;
3. to determine the level of financial contribution to legal services organizations by Maryland attorneys; and
4. to identify areas that need to be improved for promoting pro bono services.

## II. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MARYLAND LAWYERS

This section presents an overall picture of Maryland lawyers' practices by providing descriptive statistics from the pro bono report data.

### II.1. Geographical Location

The table below shows the distribution of the 39,359 lawyers by their business address as reported in the Pro Bono Legal Service Report for Year 2015. The results are compared with the distributions in previous years.

*Table 1. Office Location of Lawyers*

	Yr. 2015		Yr. 2014		Yr. 2013		Yr. 2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Maryland	22,276	56.6%	22,192	57.1%	21,902	57.6%	21,399	57.8%
Washington DC	9,262	23.5%	9,121	23.5%	8,982	23.6%	8,794	23.7%
Virginia	2,901	7.4%	2,806	7.2%	2,687	7.1%	2,563	6.9%
Other States	4,747	12.1%	4,594	11.8%	4,307	11.3%	4,130	11.2%
Foreign	173	0.4%	150	0.4%	157	0.4%	146	0.4%
	39,359	100%	38,863	100%	38,035	100%	37,032	100%

About fifty seven percent of lawyers who are certified to practice in Maryland reported a business address in Maryland, followed by 23.5 percent in Washington D.C. The distributions of office addresses remained stable.

In addition to the office address information, the pro bono report includes a question on lawyers' jurisdiction. About fifty seven percent of lawyers (22,501 lawyers) indicated they practiced in jurisdictions in the state of Maryland, forty percent (15,878 lawyers) reported an out of state jurisdiction, and the remaining three percent (991 lawyers) did not answer the question.

Among those who reported practicing in Maryland jurisdictions, 3,314 lawyers reported 'All of Maryland' as their jurisdiction as opposed to providing county level information. Table 2 shows the reported jurisdictions by county among the remaining 19,187 lawyers who provided specific county jurisdiction information and the comparable information from the previous years. The distribution of lawyers by first-choice jurisdiction is, again, similar to the distributions in previous years. The proportion of lawyers who reported Montgomery County as their primary jurisdiction ranked first at 25.7 percent, followed by Baltimore City 25.0 percent, and about 14.0 percent for Baltimore County.

Table 2. First-choice Jurisdiction

County Name	Year 2015		Year 2014		Year 2013		Year 2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Montgomery Co.	4,936	25.7%	4,839	25.7%	4,776	25.7%	4,611	25.6%
Baltimore City	4,805	25.0%	4,661	24.8%	4,638	24.9%	4,523	25.1%
Baltimore County	2,680	14.0%	2,671	14.2%	2,670	14.3%	2,537	14.1%
PG County	1,923	10.0%	1,911	10.2%	1,895	10.2%	1,803	10.0%
Anne Arundel Co.	1,551	8.1%	1,491	7.9%	1,461	7.8%	1,396	7.8%
Howard County	897	4.7%	865	4.6%	843	4.5%	835	4.6%
Frederick County	404	2.1%	384	2.0%	374	2.0%	357	2.0%
Harford County	376	2.0%	361	1.9%	353	1.9%	359	2.0%
Carroll County	218	1.1%	242	1.3%	237	1.3%	234	1.3%
Wicomico County	175	0.9%	162	0.9%	168	0.9%	168	0.9%
Charles County	173	0.9%	175	0.9%	178	1.0%	170	0.9%
Washington Co.	166	0.9%	163	0.9%	164	0.9%	162	0.9%
Calvert County	132	0.7%	122	0.6%	128	0.7%	122	0.7%
Allegany County	111	0.6%	106	0.6%	107	0.6%	106	0.6%
Talbot County	109	0.6%	101	0.5%	109	0.6%	109	0.6%
Cecil County	101	0.5%	107	0.6%	100	0.5%	101	0.6%
Worcester County	98	0.5%	101	0.5%	88	0.5%	96	0.5%
Saint Mary's Co.	97	0.5%	96	0.5%	91	0.5%	90	0.5%
Queen Anne's Co.	62	0.3%	65	0.3%	54	0.3%	57	0.3%
Dorchester Co.	42	0.2%	34	0.2%	36	0.2%	37	0.2%
Kent County	40	0.2%	39	0.2%	38	0.2%	42	0.2%
Caroline County	37	0.2%	40	0.2%	45	0.2%	32	0.2%
Garrett County	37	0.2%	37	0.2%	39	0.2%	33	0.2%
Somerset County	17	0.1%	22	0.1%	21	0.1%	16	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,187</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,795</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>18,613</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>17,996</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As was the case in previous reports, for the remaining sections of this report, business addresses of the lawyers are used to designate the geographical location of lawyers rather than jurisdiction. We matched the business address ZIP code with the County code using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) USPS ZIP Code Crosswalk Files.



## II.2. Year of Bar Admittance

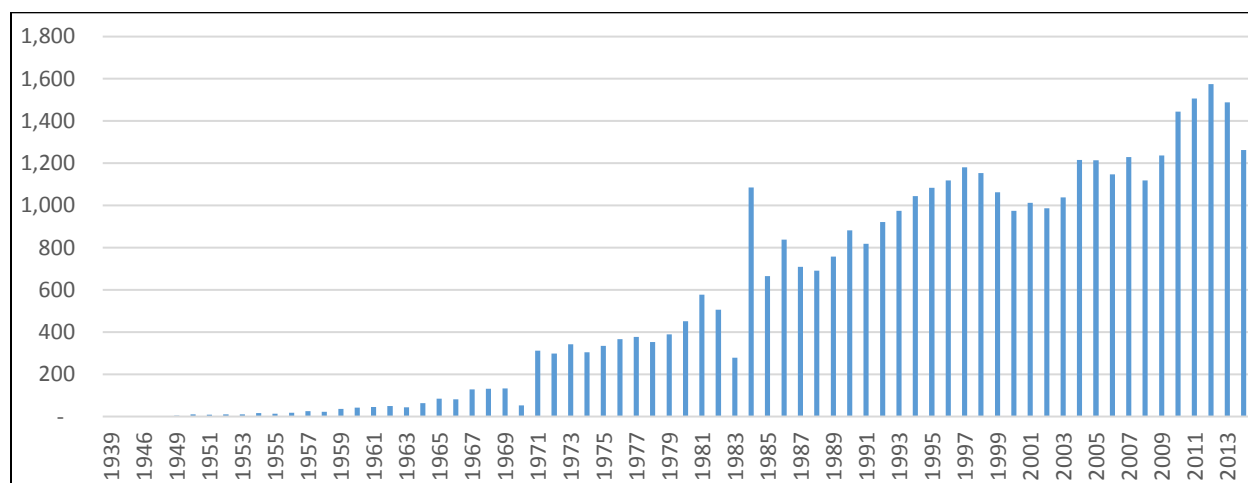
The following table shows the average and median bar admittance year for the lawyers, using the Client Protection Fund (CPF) ID number which reflects the bar admittance year (and dates) of a lawyer. Lawyers with offices in Maryland tend to have practiced law longer than lawyers whose offices are in other states. For example, the median year for bar admittance among the lawyers in Maryland is 1997, while the median for lawyers in Washington DC and Virginia is 2003 and 2001, respectively.

*Table 3. Mean and Median Bar Admittance Year by States*

	Maryland	Washington DC	Virginia	Other States	Foreign Countries
Number	22,276	9,262	2,901	4,747	173
Mean	1995.7	2001.4	2000.2	1998.9	2001.2
Median	1997	2003	2001	2000	2004

The following chart shows the distribution of active lawyers by their bar admittance year. The number of active lawyers admitted in 2015 totaled 1,262.

*Chart 1. Number of Lawyers by Bar Admittance Year*



## II.3. Primary Practice Area

As is the case for jurisdiction data, we entered up to three practice areas. Table 4 shows the primary practice areas among 38,427 lawyers, excluding 943 lawyers who did not provide the practice area information. Overall, the results are similar to the results from previous years, Litigation, Other, and Corporate/Business being the top three most common practice areas.

We also looked into practice areas among full time lawyers in Maryland. As in previous years, we defined the full time lawyers as those who are not prohibited from providing pro bono services (Question 5 in the Pro Bono Service Report), are not retired (Question 6), do not practice law part time (Question 7), and are not a Judicial Law Clerk or a Sitting or Recalled Judge

(Question 8). Among 39,370 lawyers, 28,358 were identified as full time lawyers, answering “no” to all four questions. Among the full time lawyers, 15,449 reported a business address in Maryland. For the purpose of this report, we use the term ‘Other Lawyers’ for lawyers who are prohibited, retired, part time, or a Judicial Law Clerk or Sitting or Recalled Judge.

Compared to all lawyers, full time lawyers in Maryland reported a different distribution in their primary practice areas. Higher proportions of lawyers reported Criminal, Real Estate, Family, and Personal Injury practice areas; and lower proportions reported in Other, Government, and Intellectual practice areas. The distribution looks similar to the previous years. However, the percentage of lawyers in Government practice area increased slightly from the previous year by 0.5 (among all lawyers) and 0.6 percentage (among Maryland full time lawyers).

*Table 4. Primary Practice Area*

	Practice area among All Lawyers		Practice areas among Full Time Lawyers in Maryland	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Litigation	5,238	13.6%	2,258	14.7%
Other	4,404	11.5%	1,133	7.4%
Corporate/Business	4,145	10.8%	1,569	10.2%
Government	4,144	10.8%	1,034	6.7%
Criminal	3,295	8.6%	1,812	11.8%
Real Estate	2,393	6.2%	1,272	8.3%
Family/Domestic	2,092	5.4%	1,350	8.8%
Employment/Labor	1,682	4.4%	510	3.3%
General Practice	1,430	3.7%	564	3.7%
Trusts/Estates/Wills	1,429	3.7%	718	4.7%
Intellectual Property/Patents/	1,275	3.3%	234	1.5%
Personal Injury	1,222	3.2%	868	5.7%
Administrative Law	1,063	2.8%	323	2.1%
Health	991	2.6%	320	2.1%
Taxation	907	2.4%	238	1.6%
Insurance	736	1.9%	374	2.4%
Banking/Finance	675	1.8%	189	1.2%
Bankruptcy/Commercial	595	1.5%	378	2.5%
Environmental	561	1.5%	127	0.8%
Elder Law	150	0.4%	74	0.5%
	38,427	100%	15,345	100%

### III. PRO BONO SERVICE

In this section, we present the results of our analyses of the Year 2015 Pro Bono Report data on pro bono service provided, hours spent to improve the law and the legal system, and financial contributions made by Maryland-certified lawyers.

#### III.1. Pro Bono Service by Office Location

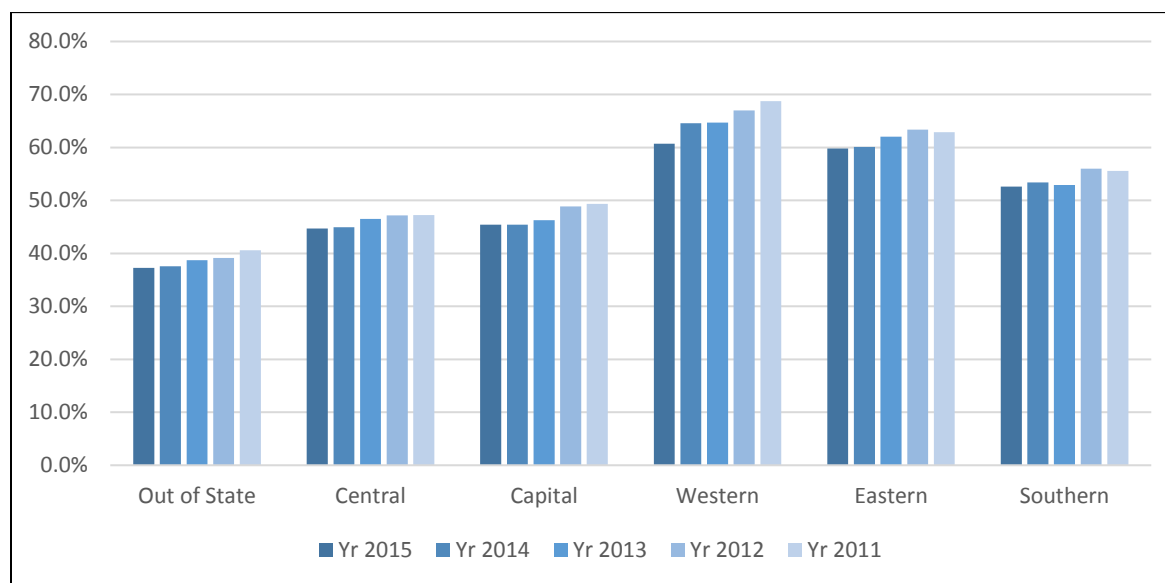
The total number of pro bono hours rendered by Maryland-certified lawyers was 1,143,992 hours (compared to 1,144,952 pro bono hours in 2014). Among 39,370 lawyers, 16,573 (42.1 percent) reported some pro bono activity (Tables 5 and 6). Among 22,276 lawyers with offices in Maryland, 10,402 (45.8 percent) rendered pro bono hours greater than '0', compared to 37.3 percent among lawyers with offices in other states. The following table shows the proportion over the last 5 reporting years.

*Table 5. Percent of Lawyers with Pro Bono Activity, 2011 - 2015*

	Yr 2015	Yr 2014	Yr 2013	Yr 2012	Yr 2011
All Reporting Lawyers	42.1%	42.4%	43.7%	44.7%	45.5%
Lawyers in Maryland	45.8%	46.0%	47.3%	48.7%	49.0%
Lawyers in Other States	37.3%	37.6%	38.7%	39.2%	40.6%

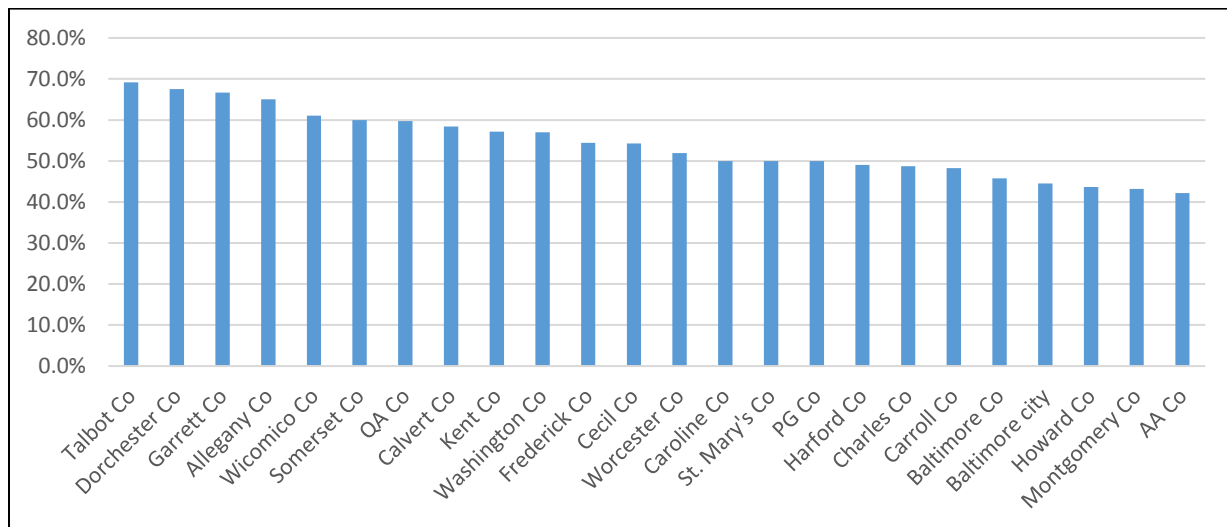
The proportion of lawyers who rendered pro bono service differs by geographical area within Maryland (Chart 2). As was the case in previous years, higher proportions of lawyers in rural areas of Maryland rendered pro bono services when compared to lawyers in central and capital regions.

*Chart 2. Percent of Lawyers with Pro Bono Hours by Region*



We also looked at pro bono hours by county (Chart 3). Lawyers in Talbot County reported the highest, with 69.2 percent of lawyers rendering some pro bono hours. Lawyers in Dorchester County reported the second highest (67.5 percent of lawyers rendered some pro bono hours), followed by Garrett County (66.7 percent).

*Chart 3. Percent of Lawyers with Pro Bono Hours by County*



Among full time lawyers in Maryland, in terms of pro bono hours greater than '0', 53.7 percent of all full-time lawyers in Maryland provided some pro bono service, compared to 53.8% in 2014. Again, the Eastern Region ranked at the top with 72.8 percent of their full-time lawyers reporting any pro bono hours in 2015, followed by the Western Region at 67.1 percent. At the county level, full time lawyers in Talbot County reported the highest, with 82.0 percent of lawyers rendering some pro bono hours (Table 8). Lawyers in Garrett County reported the second highest (81.0 percent of lawyers rendered some pro bono hours), followed by Dorchester County (78.3 percent).

A target goal of 50 hours of pro bono service for lawyers in the full time practice of law was established pursuant to Rule 19-503. Among full time lawyers in Maryland, 20.3 percent met this goal of providing 50 or more hours of pro bono service during the year 2015 (Table 6). The Eastern Region was, again, the highest by having 32.5 percent of full time lawyers who provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services, followed by 24.0 percent in the Western Region and 22.4 percent in the Southern Region. The lowest percentages of lawyers providing 50 or more pro bono service hours were found in the Central Region (18.7 percent).

Table 6. Pro Bono Hours by Region

		All Areas*	Central Region	Capital Region	Western Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	All of MD*	Other States
<b>All Lawyers</b>	No pro bono hours	57.9%	55.3%	54.6%	39.3%	40.2%	47.4%	54.2%	62.7%
	Less than 50 hours	25.8%	28.6%	27.8%	39.3%	34.7%	35.6%	28.7%	21.9%
	50 or more hours	16.3%	16.1%	17.7%	21.4%	25.0%	17.0%	17.0%	15.4%
<b>Full Time Lawyers</b>	No pro bono hours	51.1%	48.7%	45.1%	32.9%	27.1%	34.6%	46.3%	56.9%
	Less than 50 hours	29.7%	32.6%	33.4%	43.1%	40.3%	43.0%	33.4%	25.1%
	<b>50 or more hours</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>18.7%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>24.0%</b>	<b>32.5%</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>
<b>Other Lawyers</b>	No pro bono hours	75.3%	71.4%	74.0%	56.6%	68.7%	71.2%	72.1%	80.7%
	Less than 50 hours	15.8%	18.8%	16.2%	28.9%	22.6%	21.9%	18.1%	12.0%
	50 or more hours	8.9%	9.9%	9.8%	14.5%	8.7%	6.8%	9.8%	7.4%
<b>All Lawyers</b>	No pro bono hours	22,797	7,262	4,185	121	294	198	12,074	10,723
	Less than 50 hours	10,149	3,748	2,130	121	254	149	6,404	3,745
	50 or more hours	6,424	2,115	1,356	66	183	71	3,798	2,626
<b>Full Time Lawyers</b>	No pro bono hours	14,501	4,512	2,331	74	136	94	7,154	7,347
	Less than 50 hours	8,410	3,024	1,724	97	202	117	5,166	3,244
	50 or more hours	5,447	1,735	1,110	54	163	61	3,129	2,318
<b>Other Lawyers</b>	No pro bono hours	8,296	2,750	1,854	47	158	104	4,920	3,376
	Less than 50 hours	1,739	724	406	24	52	32	1,238	501
	50 or more hours	977	380	246	12	20	10	669	308

\* includes 23 lawyers in Maryland with unknown county information.

In order to see trends over time, Table 7 shows the difference in the percentage points, from last year (reporting year 2014), of lawyers who provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services.

Table 7. Pro Bono Hours – Change in Percentage Points from 2014

Pro bono hours	All Areas	Central Region	Capital Region	Western Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	All of MD	Other States
<b>All Lawyers</b> 50 or more hours	0.1%	0.7%	0.8%	-6.1%	1.0%	-3.1%	0.5%	-0.4%
<b>Full Time Lawyers</b> 50 or more hours	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
<b>Other Lawyers</b> 50 or more hours	0.7%	1.3%	1.4%	-6.5%	3.2%	-2.8%	1.2%	-0.1%

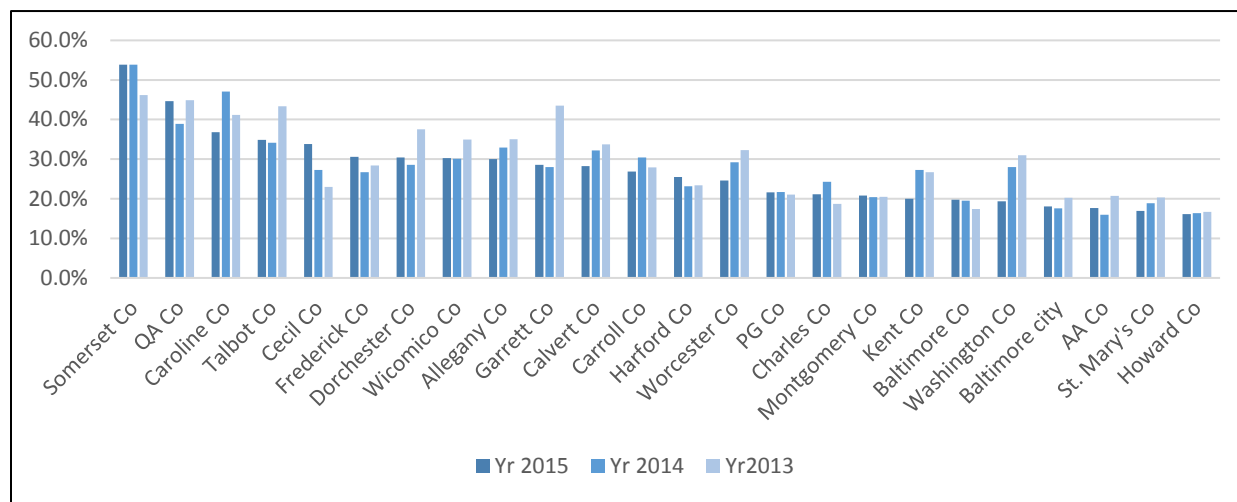
We ranked Maryland counties by percentage of full time lawyers with 50 or more pro bono hours (Table 8). Somerset County ranked first at 53.8 percent, followed by Queen Anne's (44.6%) and Caroline (36.8%) Counties.

*Table 8. Percentage of Full Time Lawyers with 50 or More Pro Bono (PB) Hours by County*

Ranking	County	Number of FT lawyers	No pro bono hrs.	Less than 50 PB hrs.	50 hrs. or more PB hrs
1	Somerset Co	13	23.1%	23.1%	53.8%
2	QA Co	56	23.2%	32.1%	44.6%
3	Caroline Co	19	42.1%	21.1%	36.8%
4	Talbot Co	89	18.0%	47.2%	34.8%
5	Cecil Co	68	26.5%	39.7%	33.8%
6	Frederick Co	268	31.3%	38.1%	30.6%
7	Dorchester Co	23	21.7%	47.8%	30.4%
8	Wicomico Co	129	27.1%	42.6%	30.2%
9	Allegany Co	80	26.3%	43.8%	30.0%
10	Garrett Co	21	19.0%	52.4%	28.6%
11	Calvert Co	92	26.1%	45.7%	28.3%
12	Carroll Co	171	36.8%	36.3%	26.9%
13	Harford Co	267	41.2%	33.3%	25.5%
14	Worcester Co	69	34.8%	40.6%	24.6%
15	PG Co	1,343	41.7%	36.7%	21.6%
16	Charles Co	109	37.6%	41.3%	21.1%
17	Montgomery Co	3,554	47.5%	31.8%	20.8%
18	Kent Co	35	40.0%	40.0%	20.0%
19	Baltimore Co	2,670	47.5%	32.8%	19.7%
20	Washington Co	124	39.5%	41.1%	19.4%
21	Baltimore city	4,154	50.2%	31.8%	18.1%
22	AA Co	1,228	49.8%	32.6%	17.7%
23	St. Mary's Co	71	40.8%	42.3%	16.9%
24	Howard Co	781	48.3%	35.6%	16.1%

The bottom of the list was populated with counties in the Capital and Central Regions. This result is displayed in Chart 4, also showing trends from the results of previous years. The counties that exhibit consistent increases for the last three years are Cecil and Baltimore Counties. Counties that exhibit consistent decreases include: Allegany, Calvert, Worcester, St. Mary's, and Howard Counties.

**Chart 4. Maryland Counties by Percentage of Full Time Lawyers with 50 or More Pro Bono Hours**



### III.2. Beneficiaries of Pro Bono Service

The pro bono report includes a series of questions regarding to whom (or to which organizations) the pro bono service was rendered (Question 1). The following is the list of possible responses to Question 1:

- Q1.a. To people of limited means
- Q1.b. To charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, or educational organizations in matters designed primarily to address the needs of people of limited means
- Q1.c. To individuals, groups, or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties, or public rights
- Q1.d. To charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, or educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, when the payment of the standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would otherwise be inappropriate

Table 9 shows the results from these questions. Overall, 51.1 percent of all reporting lawyers who rendered pro bono service hours did so on behalf of people of limited means (Q1.a); 17.4 percent to organizations helping people of limited means (Q1.b); 7.6 percent to entities on civil rights matters (Q1.c); and 23.9 percent to organizations such as a "non-profit" furthering their organizational purposes (Q1.d). In comparison to lawyers with out-of-state addresses, lawyers with

offices in Maryland rendered a higher proportion of their pro bono service to people of limited means and a lower proportion to entities on civil rights matters.

*Table 9. Distribution of Pro Bono Services by Beneficiary Type*

	All Reporting Lawyers	Maryland Region					All of Maryland	Other States
		Central	Capital	Western	Eastern	Southern		
Q1.a	51.1%	51.7%	56.0%	56.9%	56.2%	59.8%	56.1%	46.1%
Q1.b	17.4%	16.7%	15.8%	18.6%	14.5%	18.3%	16.8%	18.1%
Q1.c	7.6%	6.1%	6.4%	1.3%	3.5%	3.7%	4.2%	10.9%
Q1.d	23.9%	25.6%	21.8%	23.3%	25.8%	18.3%	22.9%	24.9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The pro bono report also asks how many pro bono service hours were spent on cases that came from a pro bono or a legal services organization. Among all reporting lawyers, 33.2, 23.1, 26.6, and 9.6 percents of pro bono service hours rendered, respectively for the four types of beneficiaries, were rendered to cases that came from a pro bono or a legal services organization (Table 10). Consistent with the previous years' results, lawyers with offices in Maryland tend to get pro bono cases on their own, rather than through a pro bono or a legal services organization.

*Table 10. Proportion of Pro Bono Hours on Cases from a Pro Bono or a Legal Services Organization*

	All Reporting Lawyers	Maryland Region					All of Maryland	Other States
		Central	Capital	Western	Eastern	Southern		
Q1.a	33.2%	28.6%	24.4%	23.4%	26.1%	20.3%	24.6%	41.8%
Q1.b	23.1%	24.6%	20.5%	11.5%	18.8%	22.9%	19.7%	26.6%
Q1.c	26.6%	24.4%	23.4%	13.6%	15.2%	23.8%	20.1%	33.2%
Q1.d	9.6%	9.9%	10.4%	2.2%	3.4%	5.3%	6.2%	13.0%

### III.3. Practice Area and Pro Bono Service

We are interested in identifying the practice areas in which lawyers provide pro bono services in comparison to the most frequently practiced primary practice areas. Table 11 shows the top five primary practice areas and pro bono service areas among full time lawyers in Maryland. We note that the Family/Domestic practice area is the top pro bono service area, followed by Corporate/Business, Other, Criminal, and Real Estate.



Table 11. Comparison of Practice Areas among Full Time Lawyers in Maryland

Rank	Pro Bono Service Area	Primary Practice Area
1	Family/Domestic	Litigation
2	Corporate/Business	Criminal
3	Other	Corporate/Business
4	Criminal	Family/Domestic
5	Real Estate	Real Estate

We note that the percent of lawyers who provide pro bono services differ greatly by their practice areas. Among full time lawyers in Maryland, Table 12 shows that 33.6 percent of lawyers in Family/Domestic Law provided more than 50 hours, followed by 31.1 percent among those in Elder Law Practice, and 28.0 percent among those in General Practice.

About seventy four percent of full time lawyers in Family Practice provided greater than 0 pro bono hours, followed by 73.7 percent in Trusts/Estate, 72.8 percent in Bankruptcy Law, and 68.4 General Practice. The bottom practice areas are: Insurance, Government, Health, Banking/Finance, and Intellectual Property.

Table 12. Percent of Full Time Lawyers in Maryland who provide Pro Bono Service – by Practice Areas

Practice Area	Number of Lawyers	Percentage of FT lawyers with more than 50 hours of pro bono service	Percent of FT Lawyers Greater Than '0' Pro Bono Hours
Family/Domestic	1,350	33.6%	74.1%
Elder Law	74	31.1%	63.5%
General Practice	564	28.0%	68.4%
Environmental	127	26.8%	51.2%
Trusts/Estates/Wills	718	25.2%	73.7%
Bankruptcy/Commercial	378	22.2%	72.8%
Employment/Labor	510	21.2%	55.1%
Litigation	2,258	21.2%	56.3%
Taxation	238	21.0%	56.3%
Other	1,133	20.9%	50.7%
Personal Injury	868	20.4%	60.0%
Corporate/Business	1,569	20.3%	53.8%
Criminal	1,812	19.6%	47.5%
Real Estate	1,272	16.7%	54.7%
Administrative Law	323	14.2%	38.4%
Intellectual Property/Patents	234	12.8%	38.0%
Banking/Finance	189	12.7%	40.2%
Health	320	8.4%	35.9%
Government	1,034	8.4%	24.3%
Insurance	374	8.0%	33.4%
Total	15,345	20.3%	53.9%

### III.4. Hours to Improve the Law and Financial Contributions

In 2015, a total of 7,392 lawyers (7,489 in 2014) reported participating in activities related to improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession (Question 3A) for a total of 379,837 hours (416,603 hours in 2014). The total financial contribution to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means (Question 4) was \$4,723,905 (\$4,275,222 in 2014) from 7,006 (6,852 in 2014) contributing lawyers. Compared to 2014, the financial contribution increased by \$448,683 from a slightly higher number of contributing lawyers.

In the table below (Table 13), we present the proportions of lawyers who spent hours improving the law (Question 3) and who made financial contributions (Question 4). As was the case last year, we note that higher percentages of lawyers with offices in Maryland devoted hours to improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession when compared to out-of-state lawyers. In comparison, smaller proportions of lawyers in Maryland, especially in the Eastern and Southern Regions, offered financial support to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means than lawyers with a primary address outside the state (16.1 percent vs. 20.0 percent for all lawyers).

*Table 13. Percent of Lawyers who Spent Hours to Improve Law and who Made Financial Contributions*

		All reporting lawyers	Maryland Region					All of MD	Other States
			Central	Capital	Western	East.	South.		
Percent of Lawyers with Hours to Improve Law (Q 3A)	All	18.8%	19.9%	19.3%	25.0%	20.9%	19.4%	19.8%	17.5%
	Full Time	22.1%	23.8%	23.9%	31.1%	24.4%	23.9%	23.9%	19.8%
	Other	10.3%	10.4%	10.0%	8.4%	13.5%	11.0%	10.4%	10.3%
Percent of Lawyers with Financial Contribution (Q4)	All	17.8%	17.2%	15.6%	17.5%	9.0%	6.2%	16.1%	20.0%
	Full Time	19.6%	18.9%	16.6%	20.4%	9.2%	7.0%	17.6%	21.9%
	Other	13.2%	12.9%	13.6%	9.6%	8.7%	4.8%	12.8%	14.0%

We also note that the percentage of full time lawyers in Maryland who offered financial contributions differ by their practice areas. As shown in Table 14, the top contributors are in Elder, Banking, Bankruptcy, Health, and Employment practices. The bottom contributors are in: Criminal, Insurance, Personal Injury, Government, and General practices.

Table 14. Full Time Lawyers in Maryland with Financial Contribution – by Practice Area

Practice Area	Number of Lawyers	Number of Lawyers with Contribution	Percent of Lawyers with Contribution
Elder Law	74	19	25.7%
Banking/Finance	189	46	24.3%
Bankruptcy/Commercial	378	80	21.2%
Health	320	66	20.6%
Employment/Labor	510	103	20.2%
Litigation	2,258	448	19.8%
Environmental	127	25	19.7%
Real Estate	1,272	250	19.7%
Corporate/Business	1,569	308	19.6%
Other	1,133	221	19.5%
Trusts/Estates/Wills	718	139	19.4%
Intellectual Property/Patents	234	45	19.2%
Taxation	238	45	18.9%
Administrative Law	323	60	18.6%
Family/Domestic	1,350	238	17.6%
General Practice	564	91	16.1%
Government	1,034	166	16.1%
Personal Injury	868	134	15.4%
Insurance	374	41	11.0%
Criminal	1,812	192	10.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,082</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>17.6%</b>

#### IV. PRO BONO SERVICE BY FIRM TYPE AND SIZE

The following analyses focus on 39,281 lawyers, excluding 89 lawyers with no information on the firm type. Table 15 shows the distribution of lawyers by their firm type. Overall, about fifty four percent (21,212 lawyers) of all lawyers practiced in a private firm. Among full time lawyers, the percentage practicing in a private firm was higher at 62.3 percent, and among full time lawyers with a business address in Maryland, even higher at 68.4 percent.

*Table 15. Distribution of Lawyers by Firm Type*

	Private Firm	Corporate Counsel	Govrmt.	Legal Services Org.	Public Interest Org.	Not Practicing	Total
All Lawyers	21,212 54.0%	3,282 8.4%	7,914 20.1%	568 1.4%	747 1.9%	5,558 14.1%	39,281 100.0%
Full time Lawyers	17,625 62.3%	2,963 10.5%	5,994 21.2%	471 1.7%	612 2.2%	644 2.3%	28,309 100.0%
Full time MD Lawyers	10,550 68.4%	1,372 8.9%	2,687 17.4%	286 1.9%	205 1.3%	318 2.1%	15,418 100.0%

Among 21,212 lawyers who reported practicing in a private firm, about 36 percent practice law solo, 20 percent in a small firm, 13 percent in a medium firm, 6 percent in a large firm, and 24 percent in an extra large firm, as Table 16 shows.

The percent of lawyers in various sizes of private firms differ greatly by their business location. Proportionally more lawyers with offices in Maryland practiced in smaller firms when compared to lawyers with offices in other states. The difference is most evident among full time lawyers in extra large firms. The proportion of full time lawyers with a business address in Maryland who work for extra large firms with 50 and more lawyers (13.7 percent) is much less than the proportion of full time lawyers in other states (46.8 percent).

*Table 16. Distribution of Lawyers in Private Firms by Firm Size*

	Unknown	Solo (1 lawyer)	Small firm (2-5)	Medium firm (6-20)	Large firm (21-49)	Extra Large firm (50 and up)	Total
Lawyers in Private Firm	43 0.2%	7,596 35.8%	4,299 20.3%	2,851 13.4%	1,361 6.4%	5,062 23.9%	21,212 100%
FT Lawyers in Private Firm	32 0.2%	5,076 28.8%	3,842 21.8%	2,634 14.9%	1,279 7.3%	4,762 27.0%	17,625 100%
FT MD Lawyers in Private Firm	28 0.3%	3,735 35.4%	2,854 27.1%	1,748 16.6%	735 7.0%	1,450 13.7%	10,550 100%

Pro bono activity varied greatly by firm type. As Table 17 indicates, about eighty two percent of all full time lawyers who are in government agencies and seventy five percent of lawyers who do not practice did not provide any pro bono service, as compared to 35.3 percent of lawyers in private firms. Only 5.4 percent of lawyers in government and 7.5 percent in Corporate Counsel provided 50 or more hours of pro bono services, as compared to 26.5 percent among lawyers in private firms. We also note that a higher proportion of the full time lawyers in Maryland provide pro bono services than full time lawyers with a primary address in other states.

*Table 17. Firm Type and Pro Bono Hours among Full Time Lawyers*

		Private Firm	Corporate Counsel	Govt.	Legal Svc. Org.	Public Interest Org.	Not Practicing
All FT Lawyers	No Pro Bono (PB) Hrs.	35.3%	71.8%	82.3%	62.8%	67.2%	74.7%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	38.2%	20.7%	12.4%	22.1%	16.8%	16.1%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	26.5%	7.5%	5.4%	15.1%	16.0%	9.2%
FT lawyers in MD	No PB Hours	33.3%	69.9%	79.2%	60.1%	62.0%	72.6%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	40.6%	22.2%	14.7%	24.8%	22.0%	18.2%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	26.0%	7.9%	6.1%	15.0%	16.1%	9.1%
FT lawyers in Other States	No PB Hours	38.2%	73.5%	84.8%	67.0%	69.8%	76.7%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	34.6%	19.4%	10.5%	17.8%	14.3%	14.1%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	27.2%	7.1%	4.7%	15.1%	16.0%	9.2%

Among the full time lawyers in private firms, the size of the firm is an important determinant of pro bono hours. As Table 18 indicates, with the exception of lawyers in extra large firms, the proportion of lawyers reporting any pro bono hours decreased as the firm size increased. The significance of the firm size is more evident among full time lawyers in Maryland.

*Table 18. Firm Size and Pro Bono Hours among Full Time Lawyers in Private Firm*

		Solo	Small firm	Medium firm	Large firm	Extra Large firm
All FT Lawyers	No PB Hours	28.0%	33.8%	46.7%	51.0%	33.7%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	40.9%	41.1%	35.3%	32.7%	36.1%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	31.1%	25.1%	18.0%	16.3%	30.2%
FT lawyers in MD	No PB Hours	25.3%	32.3%	43.4%	46.8%	36.9%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	42.2%	42.6%	37.5%	35.5%	39.0%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	32.5%	25.1%	19.2%	17.7%	24.1%
FT lawyers in Other States	No PB Hours	35.3%	38.2%	53.2%	56.6%	32.3%
	Less than 50 PB Hours	37.2%	36.7%	31.0%	28.9%	34.9%
	50 or More PB Hrs.	27.4%	25.1%	15.8%	14.5%	32.8%

## V. VOLUNTARY DONATION TO MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDER

Beginning in 2011, we added a web page to the online reporting system that permits lawyers to make a one-time voluntary donation to a Maryland legal services provider, if they so choose. If lawyers would like to make a donation, they indicate the amount in the box provided, and select the DONATE button for the program to which they would like to contribute, which leads them to the donation page of the organization. As the "Amount" field only indicates the amount they plan to donate, the following results should be reviewed carefully as the amount field only provides unconfirmed information about the donations. During the 2015 reporting cycle, 919 donations were made by 818 lawyers (In 2014, 874 donations were made by 773 lawyers). Unconfirmed donations totaled \$93,064 (\$88,697.50 in 2014), up 4.9 percent from last year. The following table shows the result.

*Table 19. Unconfirmed Donations to Maryland Legal Services Providers*

<u>Organizations</u>	<u>Yr 2015</u>	<u>Yr 2014</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Allegany Law Foundation	\$ 200.00	\$ 325.00	-38.5%
Alternative Directions, Inc.	\$ 268.00	\$ 253.00	5.9%
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center.	\$ 660.00	\$ 435.00	51.7%
Baltimore Bar Foundation, Senior Legal Services	\$ 1,855.00	\$ 1,041.00	78.2%
Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc.	\$ 685.00	\$ 375.00	82.7%
CASA de Maryland	\$ 2,491.00	\$ 2,490.00	0.0%
CASA, Inc.	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 835.00	27.5%
Catholic Charities of Baltimore	\$ 2,920.00	\$ 5,370.00	-45.6%
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC	\$ 4,270.00	\$ 3,985.00	7.2%
Community Law Center	\$ 590.00	\$ 550.00	7.3%
Community Legal Services of PG Co.	\$ 1,545.00	\$ 995.00	55.3%
FreeState Legal Project	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 1,055.00	16.1%
Harford Co. Bar Foundation	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	0.0%
Heartly House, Inc.	\$ 325.00	\$ 575.00	-43.5%
Homeless Persons Representation Project	\$ 4,325.00	\$ 3,180.00	36.0%
HopeWorks of Howard County	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 1,925.00	-44.2%
House of Ruth of Maryland	\$ 10,994.00	\$ 14,575.50	-24.6%
Life Crisis Center	\$ 410.00	\$ 590.00	-30.5%
Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education	\$ -	\$ 270.00	-100.0%
Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center	\$ 1,825.00	\$ 1,456.00	25.3%
Maryland Disability Law Center	\$ 5,516.00	\$ 5,373.00	2.7%
Maryland Legal Aid	\$ 18,268.00	\$ 12,249.00	49.1%
Maryland Legal Services Corp	\$ 2,035.00	\$ 2,295.00	-11.3%
Maryland Public Interest Law Project	\$ 995.00	\$ 750.00	32.7%
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 4,325.00	9.8%
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, Inc.	\$ 335.00	\$ 375.00	-10.7%
Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc.	\$ 870.00	\$ 715.00	21.7%

Montgomery Co. Bar Foundation	\$ 3,245.00	\$ 3,025.00	7.3%
Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland	\$ 4,316.00	\$ 5,230.00	-17.5%
Public Justice Center	\$ 1,495.00	\$ 2,035.00	-26.5%
Sexual Assault / Spouse Abuse Resource Ctr. (Harford)	\$ 300.00	\$ 220.00	36.4%
Sexual Assault Legal Institute - SALI	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 1,920.00	-36.5%
Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy	\$ 150.00	\$ 230.00	-34.8%
St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center	\$ 425.00	\$ 450.00	-5.6%
Tahirih Justice Center Baltimore	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 160.00	634.4%
The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.	\$ 5,661.00	\$ 3,180.00	78.0%
Univ. of Baltimore Students for Public Interest (UBSPI)	\$ 1,615.00	\$ 1,380.00	17.0%
Univ. of MD Carey School of Law Health Care Delivery/HIV	\$ 1,805.00	\$ 895.00	101.7%
Whitman-Walker Health Legal Services	\$ 1,610.00	\$ 1,920.00	-16.1%
YWCA of Annapolis & Anne Arundel Co.	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,640.00	-69.5%

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	<b>\$ 93,064.00</b>	<b>\$88,697.50</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
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\*New organizations in 2014.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

This report provides an objective analysis of information provided by licensed Maryland attorneys reporting on their pro bono activities during 2015 in comparison to previous years. The percentage of those lawyers who participated in pro bono activities was about the same from the year prior. The proportion of all lawyers who reported greater than '0' hours of pro bono service remained about the same, as is the percentage of full-time lawyers who provided pro bono service. In addition, the percentage of full-time lawyers who reported 50 or more hours of pro bono service increased slightly.

There were positive developments. In 2015, more lawyers reported financial contributions to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means. For five years in a row, the financial contribution amount increased from a higher number of contributing lawyers. In addition, beginning in the 2011 reporting cycle, a donation web page was added to the online reporting system. The number of unconfirmed one-time voluntary donations to Maryland legal services providers increased. Attorneys made 919 donations totaling \$93,064, up 4.9 percent from last year.

This report intended to take a closer look at full time lawyers in Maryland who provide 50 or more pro bono hours. The results show that more effort should be placed not only to promote pro bono service hours among lawyers who do not provide pro bono services - but also to convince full time lawyers in Maryland to provide more than 50 hours of service. We note that there are hurdles to overcome – such as: 1) more Maryland lawyers are in smaller firms than those who report a primary address in other states; 2) a sizeable proportion of Maryland lawyers serve in government or in other practice areas not traditionally amenable to providing pro bono services.

As the years progress, the pro bono report data have been able to provide concrete answers to many questions, showing changes in pro bono activities among Maryland lawyers and the impact of new pro bono initiatives. The data will serve as a valuable analytical tool to assist the Judiciary in determining how the Maryland Bar is meeting the aspirational pro bono service goals outlined in the Rules.