



Kansas Legal Services, Inc.
2012 PAI Plan

The partnership of Kansas Legal Services and the Kansas Bar Association remains committed to closing the Justice Gap, assisting the high number of low income people who cannot access the Justice system due to their inability to afford legal counsel. In 2011, a significant number of low income persons obtained representation and met their legal needs through the volunteer efforts of private attorneys in cooperation with Kansas Legal Services.

We set a goal of 1,000 clients to receive services from volunteer attorneys in 2011. We have completed 830 cases through November 2011 and hope to meet our goal by the end of 2011. With the support of private attorneys, the Kansas Bar Association and members of the Kansas Association for Justice, we held events in Kansas City, Pittsburg, Wichita, Topeka & Lawrence. The community response was very good and clients were able to sign individually prepared documents such as Healthcare Power of Attorney or Living Will. Every community was willing to provide the use of facilities and other needs to make successful pro bono events. The participation by volunteer attorneys was tremendous. We found willing volunteers for each event we held. The use of online document assembly tools allowed us to leave our offices and efficiently serve a large number of people. You can learn more about these events on our website at www.kansaslegalservices.org.

Private Attorney Involvement Plan 2012

- 1) Kansas Legal Services will expand the services available to low income persons through the recruitment and support of volunteer Kansas attorneys willing to provide pro bono legal services.
- 2) KLS will involve the Kansas Bar Association in creating opportunities for attorneys to meet the legal needs of low income persons in Kansas. The Kansas Bar Association is an important partner in this effort, giving prominent placement in electronic, print and personal communications of its efforts to recruit volunteer attorneys. This activity is aimed

at raising awareness of the need for pro bono volunteers and engaging groups in an activity of support. The Kansas Bar Association, through its Journal and online communications, has highlighted opportunities for all Kansas attorneys to volunteer for a variety of projects.

- 3) KLS will continue with the *Serving Our Seniors* form of Pro Bono outreach, providing legal assistance to the low income senior residents of Kansas. The clinics offer document preparation as well as legal advice to those who attend the event. The goal is to have each field office sponsor one event within 2012. The clinics focus on estate planning, debt collection, online forms, simple wills and more. The Young Lawyers Section has partnered with KLS in previous clinics and plan to do so in 2012.
- 4) KLS will provide current and new pro bono volunteers the opportunity to participate, at no charge, in KLS-sponsored Continuing Legal Education events. As training opportunities arise in domestic law, elder law and legal services for children, KLS will seek participation by pro bono volunteers.
- 5) KLS will present certificates of recognition or host events of recognition to show the appreciation for each volunteer's participation in the program. We would like to explore other ways of encouraging our volunteers and expressing our appreciation.
- 6) The *Serving Our Heroes* efforts include recruiting attorney participants for the American Bar Association pro bono program for service members and veterans. We will continue to work with the Kansas Military Law Network on this effort.
- 7) KLS will work through staff in local offices to place cases with volunteer attorneys. Efforts in this regard will include monthly phone conferences with specified topics designed to highlight best practices. All efforts are designed to make the best possible use of volunteer attorneys. In addition, the KLS statewide pro bono coordinator will increase her participation in KBA and other law related activities, increasing volunteer recruitment and representing KLS.
- 8) KLS will seek volunteer attorneys who wish to work within KLS offices. These attorneys will be provided with full support, including reception, secretary, office space and malpractice insurance for pro bono cases. This effort builds on the ***Second Season of Service*** program of the American Bar Association, aimed at attorneys nearing retirement or in partial retirement and the difficulty that young lawyers are having finding employment. It creates an opportunity for seasoned lawyers to mentor young legal services staff attorneys, law students or young volunteer attorneys. The program allows private attorneys to provide valuable service to persons who otherwise would not have access to an attorney.

- 9) KLS recognizes not all attorneys have the type of practice or the available time to volunteer. KLS will continue the private bar donation solicitation to seek direct financial contributions and volunteer commitments from private attorneys. This effort will also remind Kansas attorneys that their participation in the IOLTA program also benefits KLS.
- 10) KLS maintains a presence in parts of Kansas that are a significant distance from a KLS office by retaining a limited number of private attorneys, reimbursing them at a reduced fee for handling cases of KLS-qualified clients. This program will continue in 2012.
- 11) KLS will maintain a malpractice insurance policy to support attorneys who volunteer through KLS programs and protect them from claims made for their volunteer work. This effort allows participation by attorneys who have a limited or corporate practice and do not maintain malpractice insurance or who do not want to risk the consequences of a possible claim on their policy.
- 12) KLS will build upon our 2011 form of pro bono outreach, providing clients the opportunity to sit with an attorney and review self prepared documents. This form of outreach offers clients an opportunity to have documents thoroughly reviewed and/or corrected. They will be advised as to what they can expect in the courtroom and advised on the legal process of their case. KLS has focused on supporting the Kansas Supreme Court effort to make divorce forms available to low income, self represented persons. Staff time will be spent enhancing and supporting online computer generated versions of the Supreme Court approved forms. This type of work, based on rules that allow Limited Scope Representation, gives another avenue for attorneys to be involved with assisting low income persons. The form of these programs will vary across the state, occurring as direct litigation support in some offices or regularly scheduled clinics in some locations.
- 13) KLS will continue to make use of law student volunteers where possible. Volunteer opportunities exist at law schools, affording the opportunity of working in KLS offices throughout the state. In 2012, KLS will continue to support the Washburn University effort of intentionally engaging all students in some pro bono work during each year of law school. KLS will provide opportunities for these students to be directly involved with low income clients or support the efforts of private attorneys working with KLS clients on a pro bono basis. It is our goal in 2012 to further increase the involvement of law students in cities throughout Kansas and utilize them in pro bono work. This will include representatives from KLS being involved in recruitment in some fashion.
- 14) KLS will continue to improve turn-around time between recruitment and placement of cases with new volunteers. It is a goal to place a case with each new volunteer within 30 days of their volunteer application.

- 15) It is the goal of KLS to involve attorneys in representation of domestic violence victims, including increases in PFA Docket volunteers.
- 16) KLS will continue to increase online document assembly tools in order to provide further avenues of volunteer services to low income clients.

Additional comments or suggestions can be made to:

Marilyn Harp, Executive Director
Kansas Legal Services, Inc.
712 S. Kansas, Suite 200
Topeka, KS 66603
harpm@klsinc.org