



## **PARALEGALS & LEGAL ASSISTANTS - PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES**

**Items supported by The Mississippi Bar Paralegal Committee as it relates to *pro bono* assistance and partnership with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, a joint project of The Mississippi Bar Association and Legal Services Programs, are as follows:**

***Pro bono* Case Referrals** Through the MVLP – Paralegals ask attorneys within their workplace to accept one or two cases per year, or a minimum of twenty hours (per attorney) to help indigent clients throughout Mississippi in a county near their firm or workplace. This is much needed in the smaller communities where there are fewer lawyers. Paralegals can review files, prepare pleadings, etc. and then encourage their attorney to complete the final stage of the process. In accordance with Rule 6.1, the attorney (and the paralegal through this method) is asked to contribute 20 hours of *pro bono* time. MVLP will present an award to the paralegal that assists with the greatest number of cases through MVLP.

**Annual Recruitment of *Pro bono* Lawyers Campaign** for MVLP, sponsored by the committee

- Big drive and awareness activity to take place in the same month each year
- Year-long recruitment by recruiting lawyers from the paralegal's own firm
- Event Recognition and Outstanding *Pro Bono* Recruiter award attached

**Clinical Assistance or Clinical Partnership:** Examples follow.

Guardianship Clinic at JPS or Hinds County Courthouse: Paralegals will do intake and assist clients with guardianship pleading so that kids will be able to attend school.

Access & Visitation Legal Clinic: Paralegals will assist non-custodial parents in preparing documents and gaining visitation rights under the law, which will lead to healthier lives for children. This supports involvement by both parents.

Legal Hotline Intakes (12:00 – 2:00 p.m.): Paralegals in the Hinds, Rankin and Madison areas will answer hotline calls during the lunch hour, do intakes, and refer callers to various social services agencies on non-legal matters. However on legal matters, clients will speak with an attorney.

**Annual Fundraising Activity** for the MVLP sponsored by the Committee

- For example: “Walk for Justice”
- “Public Campaigns for Legal Aid To the Poor”
- Event Recognition and award attached

Organized **Annual *In-kind* Contribution Drive** for the MVLP to be hosted by the Committee

***Pleading Pals Project*** - (works with attorneys throughout the state allowing clients who cannot drive a great distance to sign pleadings, get documents notarized, documents filed, etc. by being a point for contact for the MVLP volunteer lawyer)

**We can develop and organize procedures, guidelines, and the like for *pro bono* opportunities as selected. MVLP is available to work with the committee on any particulars and open to your suggestions.**