

**Pro Bono Reporting – The Experience in Two States:
Florida (first to adopt) and Maryland (a neighboring bar)**

1. **Florida (Unified Bar).** In October 1993, Florida became the first state with a pro bono reporting requirement. The Supreme Court of Florida adopted the Voluntary Pro Bono Plan as part of Rule 4-6 of the Florida Rules of Professional Conduct. This rule requires Florida Bar members to report their annual number of pro bono hours and financial contributions to legal aid. It also establishes an aspirational goal for attorneys to provide at least 20 hours of pro bono hours or contribute at least \$350 hours to a legal aid organization each year. The Standing Committee on Pro Bono Services to the Supreme Court of Florida, the Florida Bar and the Florida Bar Foundation report information provided by Florida Bar members concerning the hours of pro bono legal assistance donated to the poor and dollars contributed to legal aid organizations, <https://www.floridabar.org/divcom/pi/bips2001.nsf/1119bd38ae090a748525676f0053b606/a8e811c59073e9f68525669e004d21f6!OpenDocument> . During the first year of reporting (July 1, 1993 – June 30, 1994), Florida lawyers reported 806,874 hours of pro bono and \$1,518,718 contributed to legal aid organizations. According to the most recent report from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, reported pro bono hours more than doubled to 1,703,461 and contributions increased threefold to \$5,198, 645. The following chart reflects pro bono reporting data for the five most recent years and the first year of reporting:

Year	Pro Bono Hours Donated	Pro Bono Dollars Contributed	Attorneys in the Bar (Members in Good Standing and Eligible to Practice)
July 1, 1993 – June 30, 1994 (First Year of Reporting)	806,874	\$1,518,718	N/A
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	1,681,775	\$4,812,275	77,426
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012	1,695,466	\$4,885,236	81,223
July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013	1,701,503	\$4,852,888	83,493
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	1,881,396	\$4,891,433	85,525
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015	1,703,461	\$5,198,645	85,822
% change from inception	111%	242%	11%

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2. **Maryland (Voluntary Bar).** Rule 16-903, effective July 1, 2002, requires all Maryland lawyers to annually report their pro bono activities and establishes an aspirational goal of 50 hours of service per year for full-time practitioners. During the first year of reporting, Maryland lawyers reported 995,615 pro bono hours and financial contributions of \$2,208,001 to legal services organizations with 48% of Maryland lawyers reporting some pro bono activity. During the most recent reporting year, Maryland lawyers reported a 15% increase in pro bono hours (1,144,952), a 94% increase in pro bono dollars contributed (\$4,275,222), and 54% of Maryland lawyers reporting some pro bono activity. The Rule charges the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts with the responsibility of preparing and filing the annual Pro Bono Legal Service Reports. The following information summarizes pro bono data from the reports from the five most recent years and the first year of reporting.

<http://www.courts.state.md.us/probono/reportsinfopackets.html>

Year	Pro Bono Hours Donated	Hours in Activities to Improve the Law, etc.	Pro Bono Dollars Contributed	Attorneys in the Bar
2002 (First Year of Reporting)	995,615	406,478	\$2,208,001	30,024
2010	1,181,028	407,485	\$3,661,519	35,162
2011	1,163,859	402,753	\$4,060,551	36,087
2012	1,162,232	406,079	\$4,174,712	37,032
2013	1,167,230	409,908	\$4,263,009	38,035
2014	1,144,952	416,603	\$4,275,222	38,863
% change from inception	15%	2%	94%	29%