

LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI, INC.
SUMMARY OF 2009 PRIVATE BAR INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS

1. **Dade County “Put Something Back” Project (PSB)**: This is a joint project of the Dade County Bar Association (DCBA) and the 11th Judicial Circuit. Private attorneys are recruited by PSB to handle civil cases on a pro bono basis. The DCBA Young Lawyers also recruit pro bono attorneys from their membership. LSGMI staff refer appropriate clients to PSB intake sites, and in some cases screen and refer clients directly to PSB staff for referral to a pro bono attorney.
2. **Small Claims Court Clinic**: This is a joint project of PSB and LSGMI. Private attorneys and LSGMI staff jointly conduct bi-monthly clinics in LSGMI’s Main office to provide clients with individual consultations on how to proceed pro se in Small Claims Court. LSGMI develops and prints necessary materials.
3. **Community Tax Clinic**: This is a joint project of LSGMI and PSB. LSGMI staff interview low income taxpayers with IRS disputes. The clients receive advice, and, if appropriate, are referred to a pro bono attorney or are represented by an LSGMI staff attorney.
5. **Cuban American Bar Association Pro Bono Project**: This is a project of the Cuban American Bar Association. The Project assists clients with civil legal matters and refers cases to a panel of pro bono attorneys. LSGMI staff screen and refer clients to the Project.
6. **Contract Services**: Contract lawyers assist staff with the provision of services to clients, as well as enhance the services eligible clients receive. The contract services are provided at a reduced rate.
7. **Bankruptcy Bar Association**: This is a project with the Bankruptcy Bar Association. LSGMI staff screen and refer appropriate bankruptcy cases to the Bankruptcy Bar Association pro bono panel.
8. **REAL**: The Renters Education and Advocacy Legal Lines (REAL) is a new project which provides telephone advice to tenants who have housing problems, including tenants facing evictions, uninhabitable conditions cases, and prohibitive practices. LSGMI actively recruits private law firms to staff monthly advice clinics.

SERVICES LSGMI PROVIDES

Training: Private attorneys provide training to LSGMI staff in areas such as trial skills. LSGMI staff provide training in poverty law areas for private attorneys who agree to accept pro bono referrals.

Co-Counseling/Technical Assistance: Private attorneys provide co-counseling/technical assistance to LSGMI staff in complex litigation and/or in substantive areas not within the expertise of LSGMI staff. LSGMI staff provides co-counseling/technical assistance in poverty law areas to private attorneys who handle cases for eligible clients on a pro bono basis.

Bar Association Participation: LSGMI staff attorneys participate in national, state and local bar associations (as well as state and local community organizations having a legal focus) to expand the participation of private attorneys in the delivery of legal services to poor people.

Presentations: LSGMI staff make presentations to private law firms regarding the types of cases we handle and the opportunities for pro bono representation of low-income clients. LSGMI staff encourages private attorneys to accept cases through the PSB project where a majority of our cases are referred for pro bono representation.

Review: On a quarterly basis, LSGMI inquires into the status of referred cases. At the conclusion of the case, LSGMI also surveys clients for quality assurance purposes.

Approved by Executive Committee of the Board of Directors March 3, 2009