

## Colorado Legal Services

### PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT PLAN 2008

#### Introduction

The mission of Colorado Legal Services (CLS) is to provide meaningful access to high quality, civil legal services in the pursuit of justice for as many low-income persons and members of vulnerable populations throughout Colorado as possible.

To that end, CLS relies upon staff and private attorneys to serve Colorado's poverty population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Colorado was home to 388,952 poor persons at the time of the 2000 Census. According to the 2005 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Colorado had, in 2005, a poverty population of approximately 530,000 persons. Approximately 721,000 Colorado residents had incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty level in 2005, and approximately 1,250,000 persons had incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

CLS supports its work on behalf of poor people through a mix of federal, state and local funding. The Legal Services Corporation, the State of Colorado, the Colorado Lawyer Trust Account Foundation, various United Ways, foundations, county and local governments, bar associations, grants and private donations all contribute to CLS in furtherance of its goals and programs. Several of these grants specifically target Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) activities.

CLS offers legal assistance to low-income persons in a variety of non-fee generating civil matters. The program's main office is located in Denver, with specialty units focusing on Family and Children, Health and Elder Law, and Housing Rights and Homelessness Prevention Issues. Other offices are located in Alamosa, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Durango, Fort Collins, Frisco, Grand Junction, Greeley, Gunnison, Hayden, La Junta, Leadville, Pueblo, and Salida. The Migrant Farmworker Division is headquartered in the Denver office. The Durango office serves Native Americans living on the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute tribal lands.

All offices support a Private Attorney Involvement component, which is either an internal component of the office, a separate pro bono program housed in a CLS office, or a partnership with an independent pro bono program.

#### Private Attorney Involvement Models

CLS is committed to the effective involvement of private attorneys in providing high quality legal representation to the program's low-income clients. The models developed in each office reflect the resources, needs, and socioeconomic characteristics of the varying areas of the state—which range from the eastern plains with scattered communities and limited attorney resources, to metropolitan areas with highly concentrated poverty populations and higher attorney ratios, to alpine regions connected by mountain passes with attorney resources concentrated in regional centers. CLS is continually re-evaluating its pro bono models to respond to changing client needs and available local resources. (This evaluation process now includes an analysis of program resources and activities in light of LSC Program Letter 07-2, as discussed below.)

#### PAI as an Internal Component of a CLS Office

This model incorporates PAI functions into the operation of the CLS office. Office staff include personnel dedicated either full-time or part-time to PAI activities. Client intake is performed by CLS staff who then direct cases to either CLS staff attorneys or to PAI attorneys on a panel maintained by office staff. Case disposition is determined by the needs of the client, taking into consideration the skills and resources of staff

