

Special Fund Supports Local Pro Bono Efforts

Since 2000, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has asked each lawyer to donate \$50 annually to a special fund that supports local pro bono initiatives. Make your contribution when you file your annual attorney registration this Spring or anytime online at www.paiolta.org/donate.

In 2006-07, attorneys and firms contributed more than \$85,000 to the fund. Last year, contributions fell below \$40,000. The majority of the attorneys that contribute to the fund are solo practitioners and about 27% have a mailing address outside of Pennsylvania. Of the contributing attorneys living in Pennsylvania, 58% reside in Eastern Pennsylvania, 25% reside in Western Pennsylvania and 17% reside in Central Pennsylvania. The average contribution for an attorney residing in Pennsylvania is \$60. Attorneys with a Florida address are the most generous with an average contribution of \$108. Attorneys with a New York address come in second with an average contribution of \$88.

Contributions to the fund and the associated grants are administered by the IOLTA Board. Grants are awarded to local county bar associations and nonprofit organizations that provide the administrative structure for local pro bono efforts. In the last two years, the following counties received a grant award from this fund for the administration of local pro bono representation of indigent neighbors facing a civil legal crisis: Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Clinton, Indiana, Washington and Allegheny.

