

## **2019 PRO BONO REPORT**

In 2019, 85 attorneys handled 362 Lycoming County pro bono cases for the Williamsport Office of North Penn Legal Services. Protection from Abuse matters continue to be the largest case type at 199 cases. The remaining 163 cases comprised of cases in the Mortgage Diversion Program, private Landlord-tenant matters, debt collection and other consumer matters, advanced Powers of Attorney and Adult Guardianship, unemployment compensation cases, removing barriers to employment, custody and other miscellaneous civil matters.

North Penn Legal Services handled 17 custody clinics and 2 divorce clinics with the help of pro bono attorneys and paralegals.

NPLS continued to have 2 retired attorneys and one retired paralegal working in its office, each at least one day a week on a regular basis. NPLS welcomes any retired attorney to volunteer.

Attorneys continue to generously donate arbitration fees to the Law Foundation in support of North Penn Legal Services.

2019 saw the advent of the PA Bar Pro Bono CLE initiative. Attorneys who did pro bono work for approved legal services programs (of which North Penn is one) were eligible for up to three CLE credits a calendar year. The programs awards one CLE credit for every five hours of pro bono work. The hours are counted upon completion of the case or project and they can carry forward to the next year. It is important that the pro bono attorneys return the closing forms indicating that the case is over and how many hours was spent on the matter. A number of attorneys in Lycoming county got three (3) CLE credits in 2019 and an even larger number got one (1) or two (2) credits with hours carried over to 2020.