



SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
**PENNSYLVANIA INTEREST ON
LAWYERS TRUST ACCOUNT BOARD**

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"Rule 6.1 Pro Bono Publico Service. A lawyer should render public interest legal service. A lawyer may discharge this responsibility by providing professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of limited means or to public service or charitable groups or organizations, by service in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession, and by financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means."

PENNSYLVANIA RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The defining principle of our legal system is the promise of equal justice under law for all. Yet, despite this promise, there is a crisis of unmet legal needs among the indigent in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation. Comprehensive legal needs studies have concluded in that four out of five low income persons with legal needs have no access to lawyers.

As officers of the court, lawyers are reminded of their responsibility to perform *pro bono publico* service by Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1. One way to help meet this ethical obligation is through the voluntary financial support of local *pro bono* programs via IOLTA.

Through its IOLTA Program, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania wants to assure that lawyers are given the opportunity to volunteer their time and talent for the civil legal representation of low-income persons in their communities. Such organizational efforts need administrative support and co-ordination, which, of course, requires financial support.

Through its annual attorney fee assessment process, the Supreme Court is again providing the opportunity for lawyers to make a voluntary contribution to a dedicated pool of funds to establish or expand county-based *pro bono* programs. With a fifty dollar voluntary contribution, an informal survey indicates that the combined mandatory attorney assessment plus contribution would still rank Pennsylvania in only the third quartile nationwide concerning attorney registration fees. Such a contribution -- if not fifty dollars, then whatever is feasible whether greater or less -- will be used to award grants to local non-profit organizations providing administrative and support structure for the local *pro bono* efforts.

Your voluntary, **tax-deductible** contribution can help IOLTA continue to support and expand these programs. Since the PA IOLTA Board itself already has a funded administrative structure, all of the *pro bono* contributions go for their intended purpose.

Attorney Name _____ Supreme Court ID _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

Please make checks payable to the PA IOLTA Board. Indicate attorney(s) and Supreme Court ID#(s) on whose behalf the contribution is being made. Return this form and your check with your annual fee form to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Official registration and financial information of the PA IOLTA Board may be obtained by calling toll-free within PA, 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.