



REPORT TO THE SUPREME COURT OF  
OHIO

FROM THE OHIO LEGAL ASSISTANCE  
FOUNDATION

VOLUNTARY, ANONYMOUS PRO BONO  
REPORTING FOR  
CALENDAR YEAR 2016

June 27, 2017



REPORT TO THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO  
FROM THE OHIO LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

VOLUNTARY, ANONYMOUS PRO BONO REPORTING  
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary

Report to the Supreme Court of Ohio

Appendix 1: Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting (Calendar Year 2016):  
Summary of Pro Bono Reporting Results

# VOLUNTARY PRO BONO REPORTING CALENDAR YEAR 2016 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting advances the Supreme Court of Ohio's goals of encouraging pro bono legal service by Ohio attorneys and advancing access to justice throughout the state. The Foundation is pleased and privileged to support the Supreme Court in this important effort.

**1,539**

(16% decrease)

Individual attorneys chose to report.

**2,772**

(11% increase)

attorneys had representatives report on their behalf.

**4,311**

(.6% decrease)

Total number of attorneys who reported.

Percent of attorneys on active registration choosing to report:

**10%**

Individual reporting:

**16%**

decrease

Representative reporting:

**11%**

increase

Percent of participating individual attorneys who provided pro bono legal services in 2015:

**62%**

(13% increase)

Number of hours reported by individual attorneys

**= 46,775**

(8% increase)

Number of hours reported by representatives on behalf of attorneys working in firms, corporate law departments, governmental units, and the like

**= 29,399**

(11% decrease)

**Total number of hours reported**

**= 76,174**

(.2% decrease)

**51.5 hours**  
(13% increase)

Average number of pro bono hours by individual attorneys reporting pro bono legal services on their own behalf

**10.6 hours**  
(25% decrease)

Average number of pro bono hours per attorney, as reported by representatives

The opportunity to participate in Voluntary Pro Bono reporting was available from January 10, 2017 until March 31, 2017.

**42,397 emails**

were sent to notify attorneys of the opportunity to report (a decrease of 1,008 from the number sent in January, 2016)

Value of reported pro bono legal services, at \$135 per hour:

**\$10,300,000**

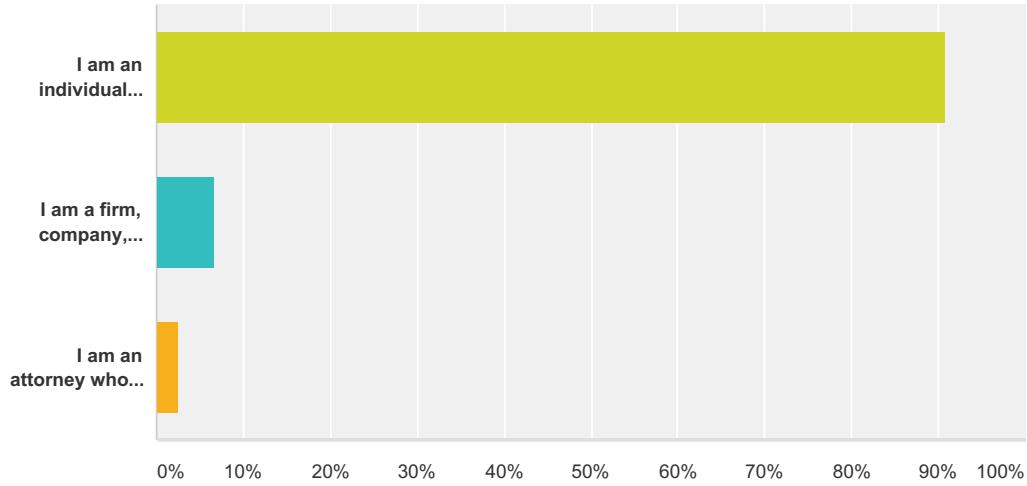


## **APPENDIX 1**

Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting (Calendar Year 2016):  
Summary of Pro Bono Reporting Results

**Q1 Please check the description that best describes who you are and what you are reporting. Choose only one.**

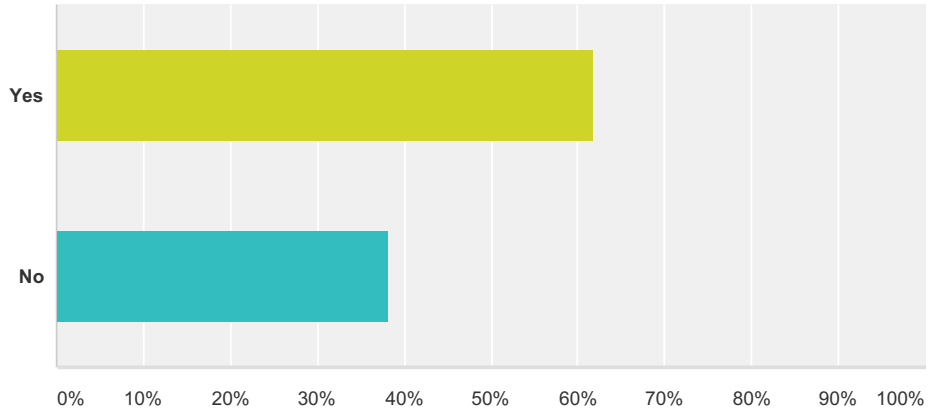
Answered: 1,695 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
I am an individual attorney reporting pro bono legal services and/or financial contributions to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.	<b>90.80%</b> 1,539
I am a firm, company, department or agency representative reporting pro bono hours, and/or financial contributions to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means, on behalf of others or myself and others.	<b>6.61%</b> 112
I am an attorney whose pro bono hours are being reported by a representative, and I am reporting ONLY my financial contributions to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.	<b>2.60%</b> 44
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,695</b>

**Q2 Did you provide hours of "pro bono legal services" in the state of Ohio during calendar year 2016?**

Answered: 1,522 Skipped: 173



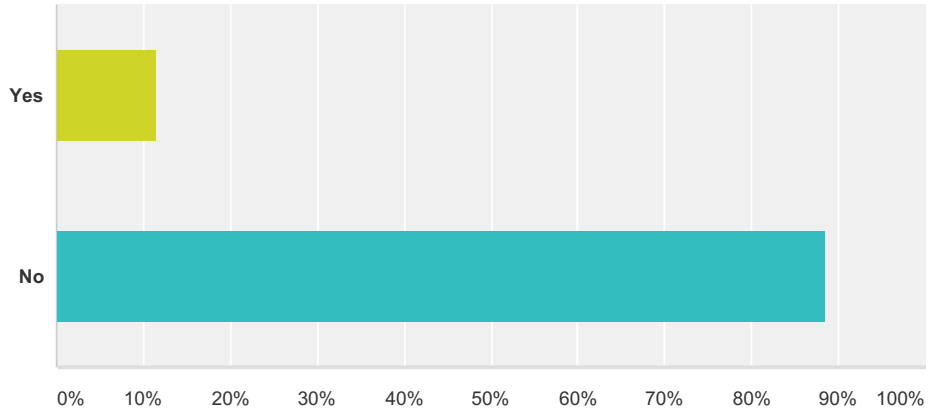
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	61.89% 942
No	38.11% 580
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,522</b>

**Q3 Please enter the number of hours of pro bono legal services provided during calendar year 2016 in the state of Ohio. While an exact answer is preferred, a good faith estimate may be used to answer this question.**

Answered: 909 Skipped: 786

**Q4 Have you applied to receive CLE credit for any pro bono legal services performed in 2016?**

Answered: 909 Skipped: 786

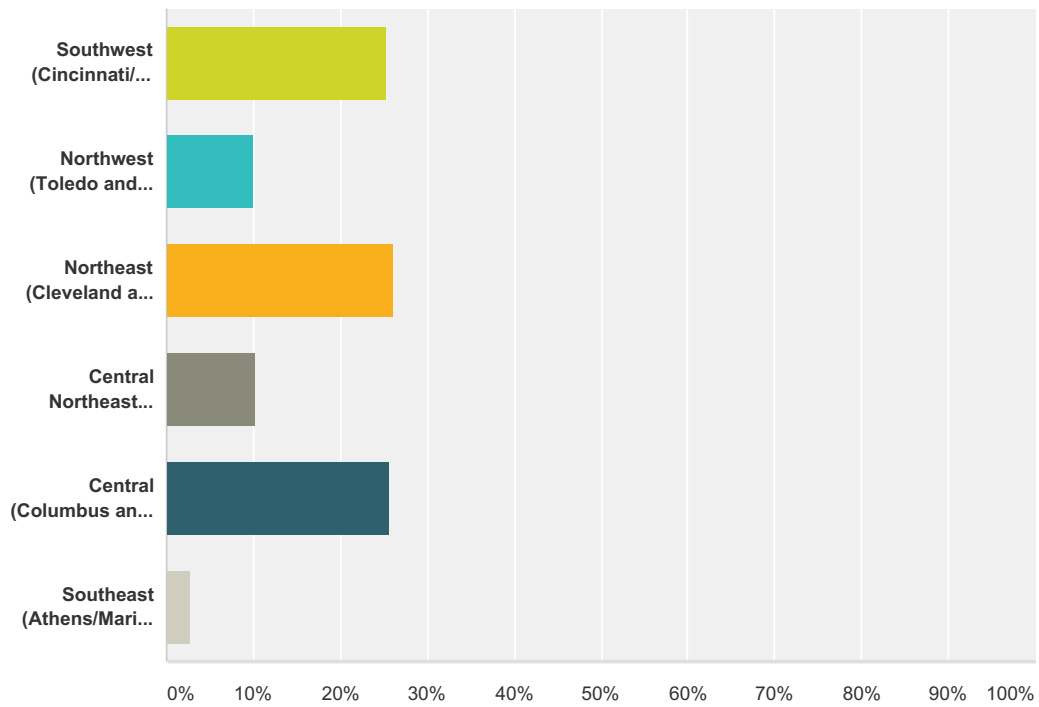


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	11.55%	105
No	88.45%	804
<b>Total</b>		<b>909</b>



### Q5 In what part of the state did you provide all or most of your pro bono legal services?

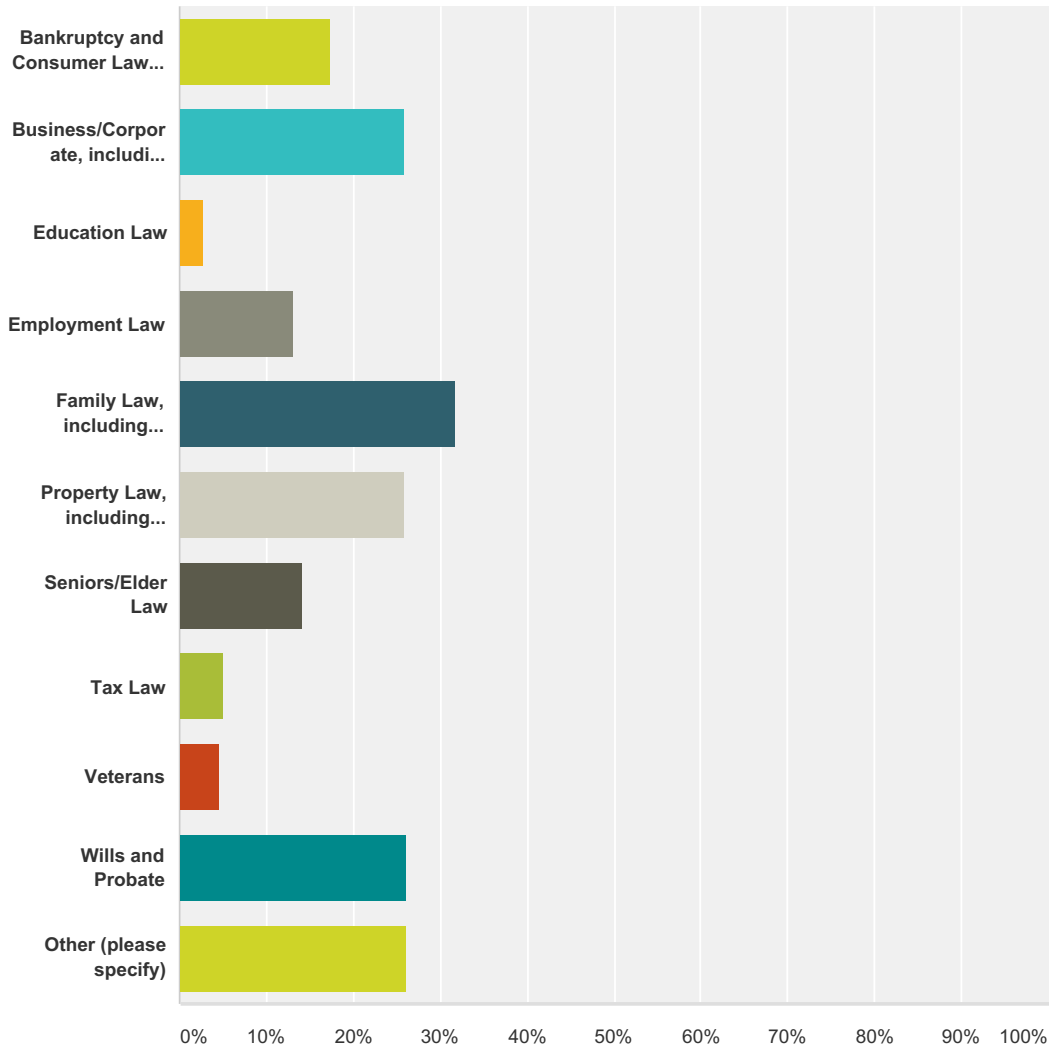
Answered: 909 Skipped: 786



Answer Choices	Responses
Southwest (Cincinnati/Dayton and surrounding counties)	25.30% 230
Northwest (Toledo and surrounding counties)	10.01% 91
Northeast (Cleveland and surrounding counties)	26.07% 237
Central Northeast (Akron/Canton/Youngstown and surrounding counties)	10.23% 93
Central (Columbus and surrounding counties)	25.74% 234
Southeast (Athens/Marietta and surrounding counties)	2.64% 24
<b>Total</b>	<b>909</b>

**Q6 In what practice area(s) did you provide pro bono legal services? Select all that apply. Use the "other" category only for specific areas that do not fall within the general categories listed below, e.g., patent or immigration.**

Answered: 886 Skipped: 809



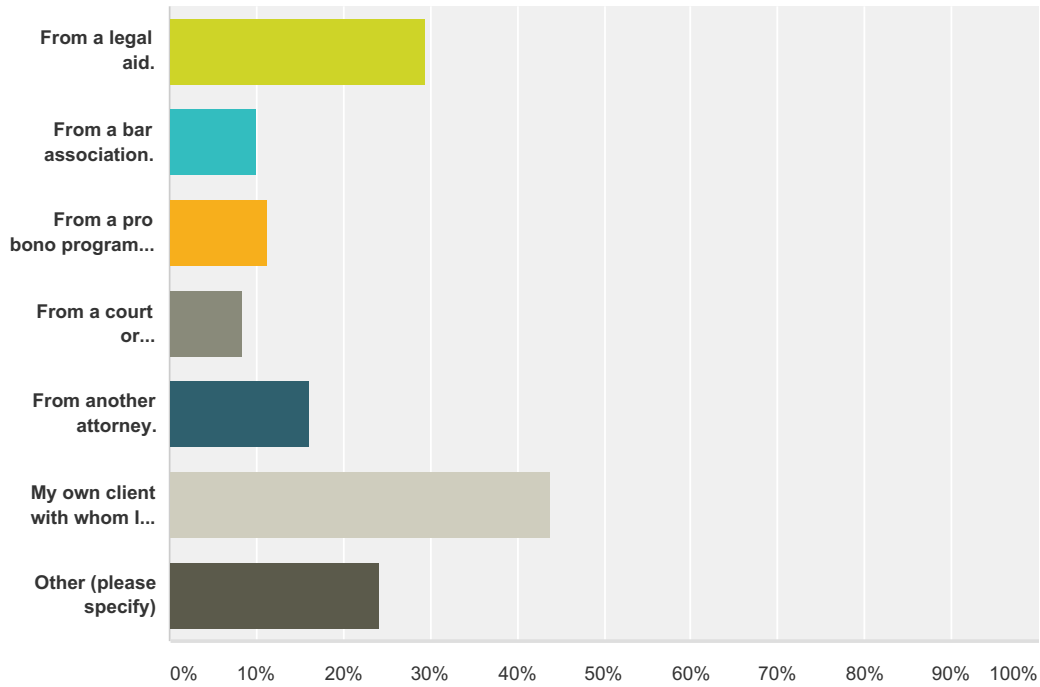
Answer Choices	Responses
Bankruptcy and Consumer Law, including Collections	17.38% 154
Business/Corporate, including Non Profit Representation*	25.85% 229
Education Law	2.71% 24
Employment Law	13.21% 117
Family Law, including Domestic Violence	31.83% 282

## Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting (Calendar Year 2016)

Property Law, including Foreclosure and Landlord/Tenant	25.96%	230
Seniors/Elder Law	14.22%	126
Tax Law	5.08%	45
Veterans	4.63%	41
Wills and Probate	26.19%	232
Other (please specify)	26.19%	232
<b>Total Respondents: 886</b>		

**Q7 From what source(s) did you receive the case(s) or matter(s) for which you provided pro bono legal services? Select all that apply. Use the "other" category only for the few specific referral sources that do not fit within the broad categories listed below.**

Answered: 881 Skipped: 814



Answer Choices	Responses	
From a legal aid.	29.40%	259
From a bar association.	10.10%	89
From a pro bono program not affiliated with a bar association or legal aid.	11.24%	99
From a court or court-sponsored program.	8.40%	74
From another attorney.	16.12%	142
My own client with whom I agreed to represent pro bono at the START of representation.	43.81%	386
Other (please specify)	24.29%	214
<b>Total Respondents: 881</b>		

**Q8 Please enter the number of hours of pro bono legal services provided during calendar year 2016 in the state of Ohio by attorneys in the firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency for whom you are reporting. While an exact answer is preferred, a good faith estimate may be used to answer this question.**

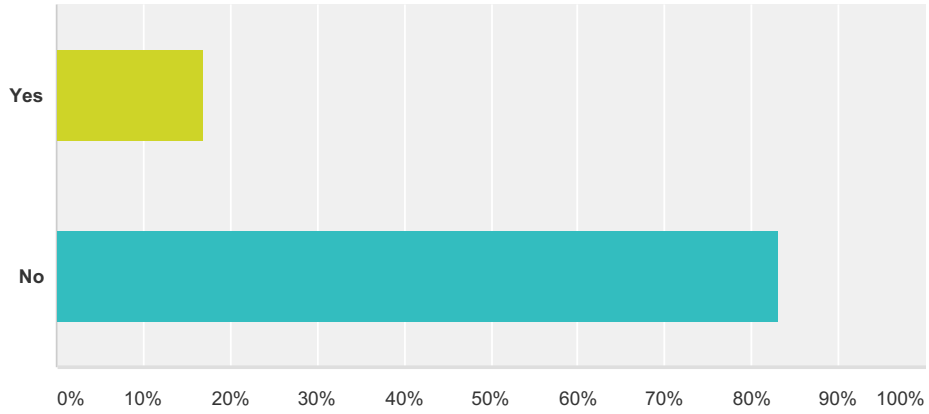
Answered: 77 Skipped: 1,618

**Q9 Please enter the number of attorneys in your firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency for whom you are reporting.**

Answered: 77 Skipped: 1,618

**Q10 Have any attorneys for whom you are reporting applied to receive CLE credit for any pro bono legal services performed in 2016?**

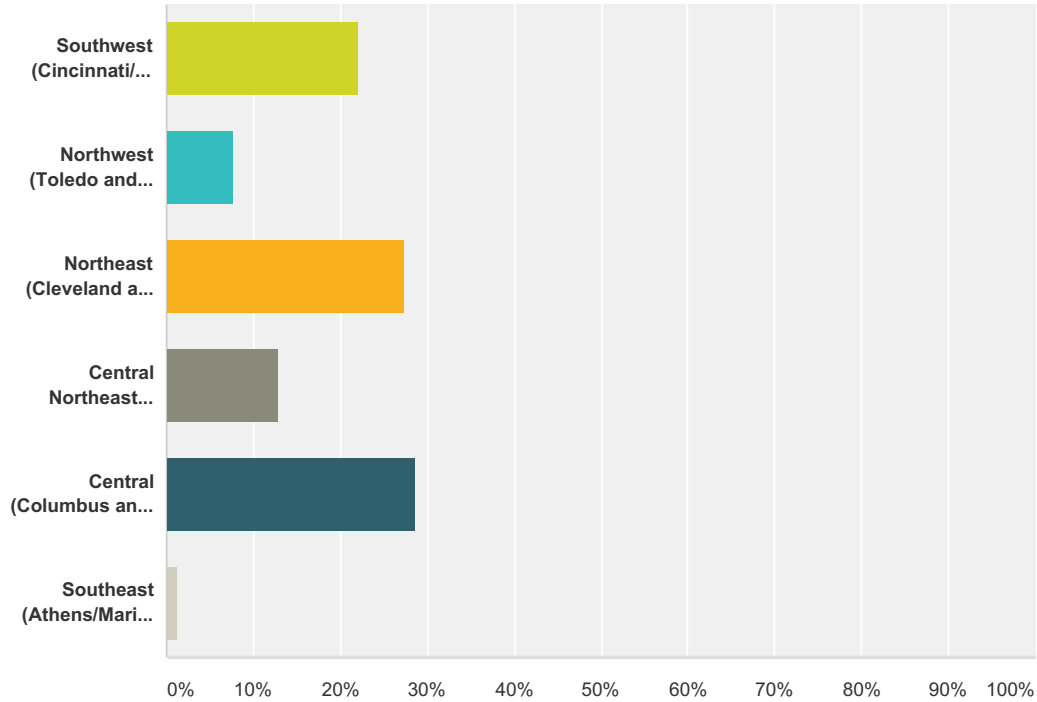
Answered: 77 Skipped: 1,618



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	16.88% 13
No	83.12% 64
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

**Q11 In what part of the state did your firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency provide all or most of its pro bono legal services?**

Answered: 77 Skipped: 1,618

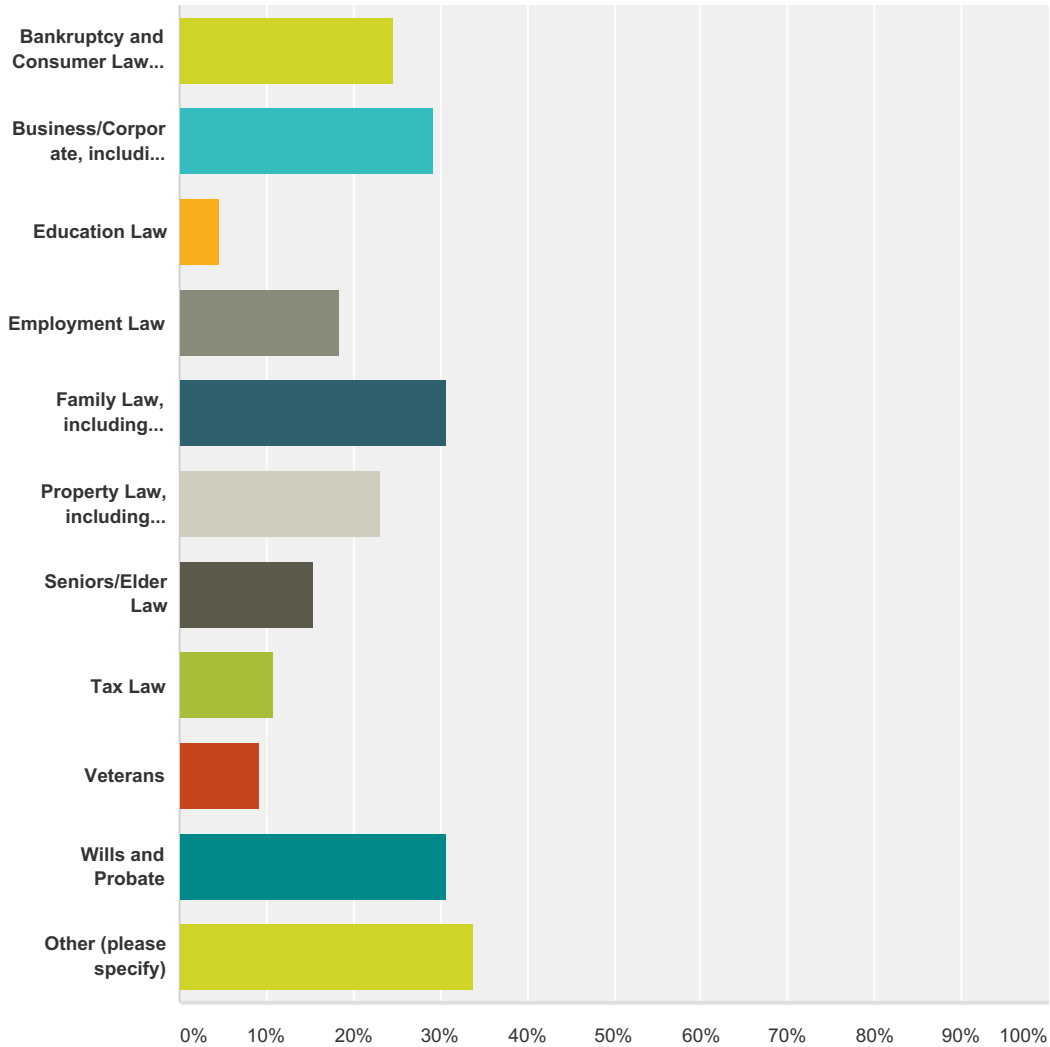


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Southwest (Cincinnati/Dayton and surrounding counties)	22.08%	17
Northwest (Toledo and surrounding counties)	7.79%	6
Northeast (Cleveland and surrounding counties)	27.27%	21
Central Northeast (Akron/Canton/Youngstown and surrounding counties)	12.99%	10
Central (Columbus and surrounding counties)	28.57%	22
Southeast (Athens/Marietta and surrounding counties)	1.30%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>77</b>



**Q12 In what practice area(s) did your firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency provide pro bono legal services? Select all that apply. Use the "other" category only for specific areas that do not fall within the general categories listed below, e.g., patent or immigration.**

Answered: 65 Skipped: 1,630



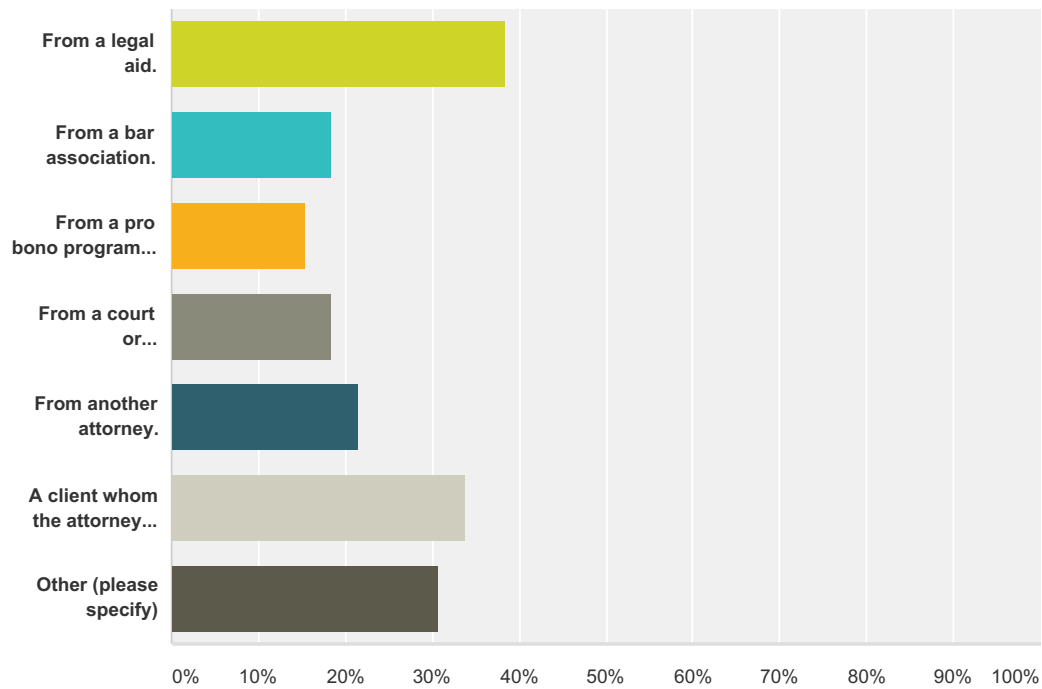
Answer Choices	Responses
Bankruptcy and Consumer Law, including Collections	24.62% 16
Business/Corporate, including Non Profit Representation*	29.23% 19
Education Law	4.62% 3
Employment Law	18.46% 12
Family Law, including Domestic Violence	30.77% 20

## Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting (Calendar Year 2016)

Property Law, including Foreclosure and Landlord/Tenant	23.08%	15
Seniors/Elder Law	15.38%	10
Tax Law	10.77%	7
Veterans	9.23%	6
Wills and Probate	30.77%	20
Other (please specify)	33.85%	22
<b>Total Respondents: 65</b>		

**Q13 From what source(s) did your firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency receive the case(s) or matter(s) for which it provided pro bono legal services? Select all that apply. Use the "other" category only for the few specific referral sources that do not fit within the broad categories listed below.**

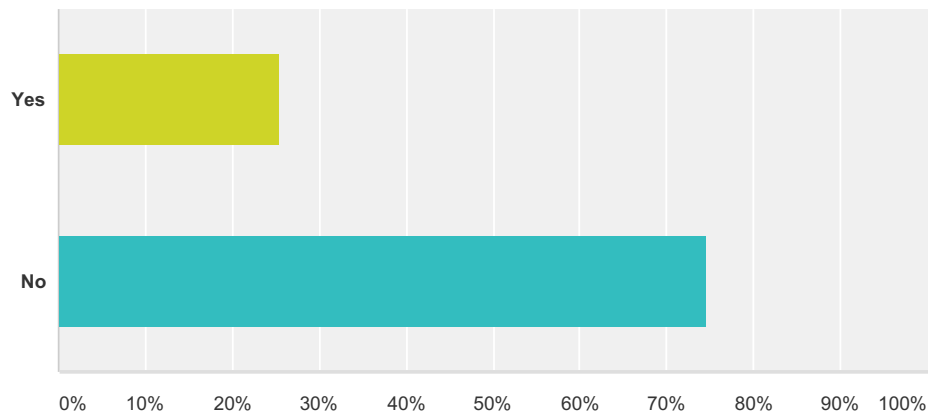
Answered: 65 Skipped: 1,630



Answer Choices	Responses
From a legal aid.	38.46% 25
From a bar association.	18.46% 12
From a pro bono program not affiliated with a bar association or legal aid.	15.38% 10
From a court or court-sponsored program.	18.46% 12
From another attorney.	21.54% 14
A client whom the attorney agreed to represent pro bono at the START of representation.	33.85% 22
Other (please specify)	30.77% 20
<b>Total Respondents: 65</b>	

**Q14 For calendar year 2016, did you make any financial contributions to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means? Law firm equity partners may report a pro rata share of law firm contributions to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.**

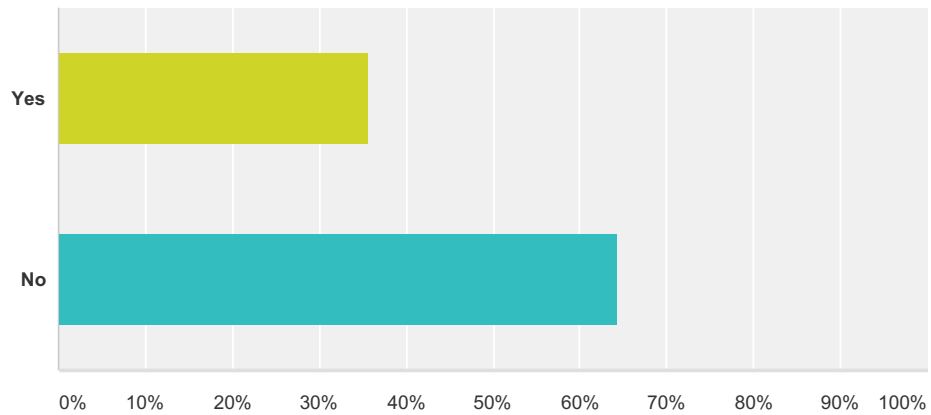
Answered: 1,501 Skipped: 194



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	25.52% 383
No	74.48% 1,118
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,501</b>

**Q15 For calendar year 2016, did members of your firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency for whom you are reporting make financial contributions to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means? Law firm equity partners may report a pro rata share of law firm contributions to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means. Pro rata shares reported by law firm representatives should not duplicate contributions reported individually by law firm equity partners.**

Answered: 73 Skipped: 1,622



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	35.62%	26
No	64.38%	47
<b>Total</b>		<b>73</b>

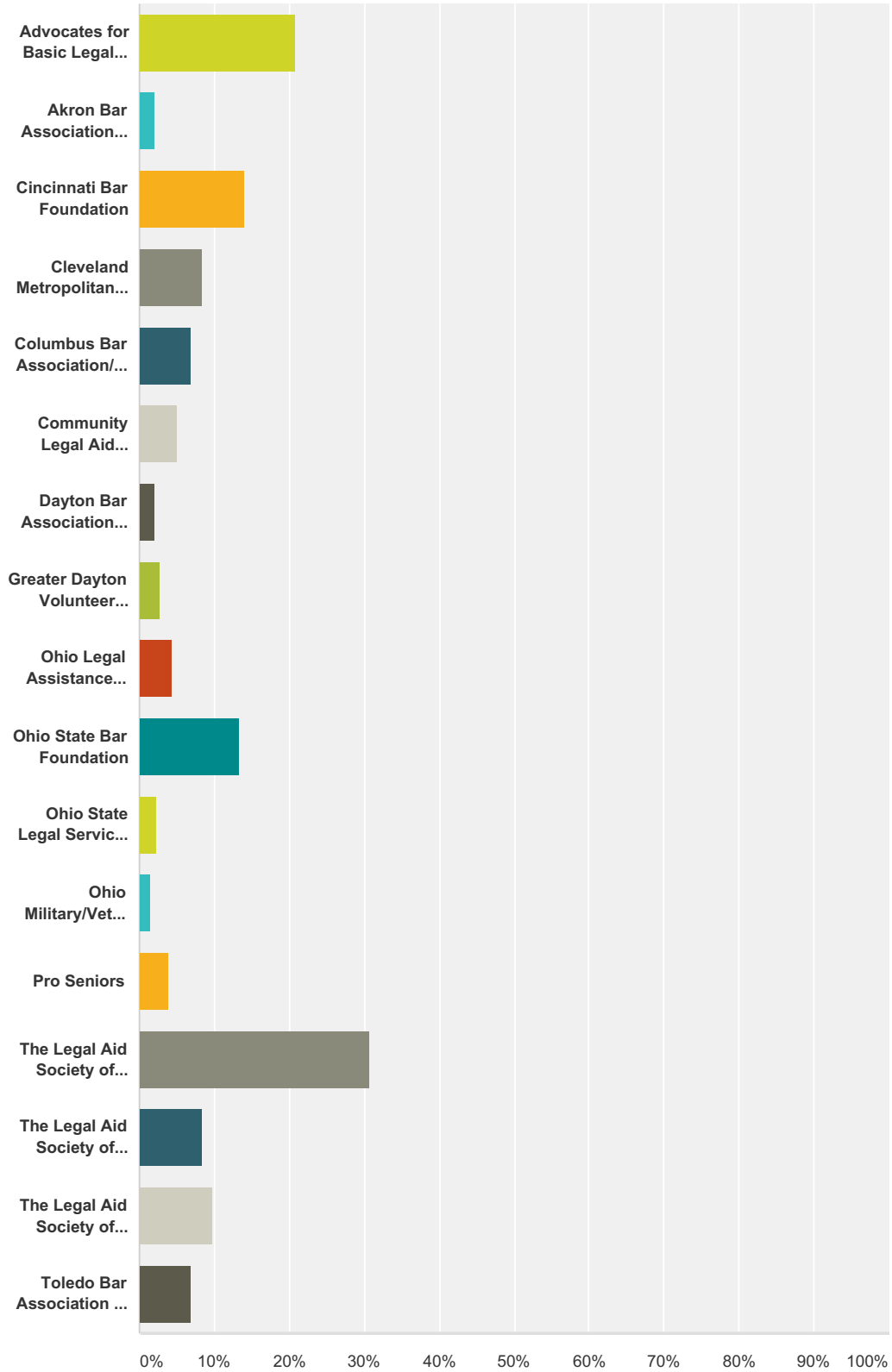
**Q16 Please enter below the total dollar amount of financial contributions made in calendar year 2016 to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means. Enter only contributions made to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means, not other charitable contributions. Enter 1000 for \$1,000.00.**

Answered: 359 Skipped: 1,336

**Q17 To which organization(s) that provide legal services to persons of limited means did you make a financial contribution during calendar year 2016? Check all that apply.**

Answered: 335 Skipped: 1,360

### Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting (Calendar Year 2016)



Answer Choices	Responses	
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality/Legal Aid of Western Ohio	20.90%	70
Akron Bar Association Foundation	2.09%	7



## Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting (Calendar Year 2016)

Cincinnati Bar Foundation	<b>14.03%</b>	47
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation	<b>8.36%</b>	28
Columbus Bar Association/Foundation - Lawyers for Justice	<b>6.87%</b>	23
Community Legal Aid Services	<b>5.07%</b>	17
Dayton Bar Association Foundation	<b>2.09%</b>	7
Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project	<b>2.69%</b>	9
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation	<b>4.48%</b>	15
Ohio State Bar Foundation	<b>13.43%</b>	45
Ohio State Legal Services Association/Southeastern Ohio Legal Services/Ohio Poverty Law Center	<b>2.39%</b>	8
Ohio Military/Veterans Legal Assistance Project/Operation Legal Help Ohio	<b>1.49%</b>	5
Pro Seniors	<b>3.88%</b>	13
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland	<b>30.75%</b>	103
The Legal Aid Society of Columbus	<b>8.36%</b>	28
The Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati/Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio/Volunteer Lawyers Project	<b>9.85%</b>	33
Toledo Bar Association Pro Bono Program	<b>6.87%</b>	23
<b>Total Respondents: 335</b>		

**Q18 Please enter below the total dollar amount of financial contributions made by your firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency, and/or attorneys for whom you are reporting, in calendar year 2016, to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means. Enter only contributions made to Ohio organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means, not other charitable organizations. By example, enter 1000 for \$1,000.00.**

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1,669

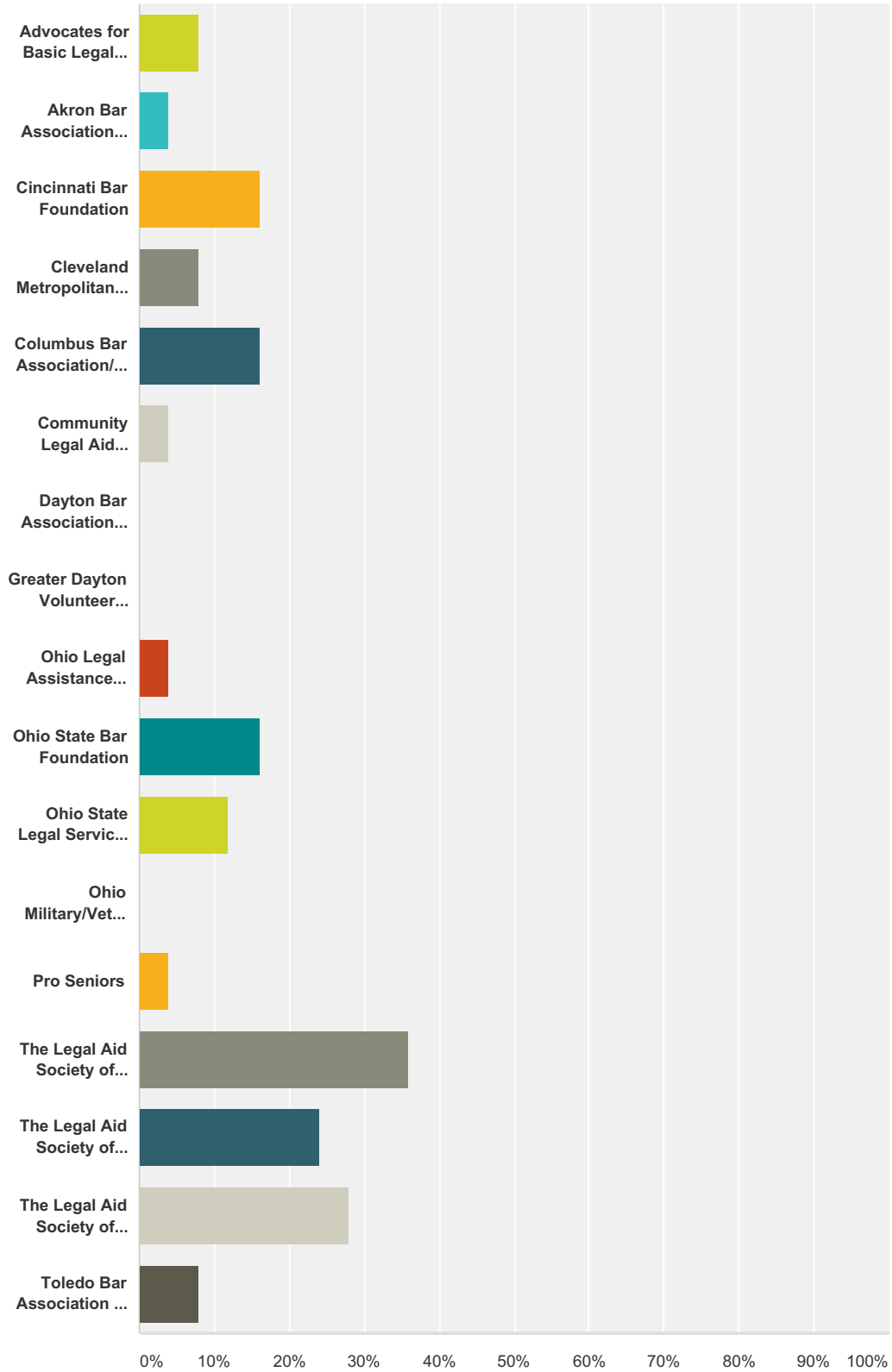
**Q19 Please enter the number of attorneys in your firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency for whom you are reporting.**

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1,669

**Q20 To which organization(s) that provide legal services to persons of limited means did your firm (or office/branch), company, department, agency, or attorneys for whom you are reporting make a financial contribution during calendar year 2016?  
Check all that apply.**

Answered: 25 Skipped: 1,670

### Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting (Calendar Year 2016)



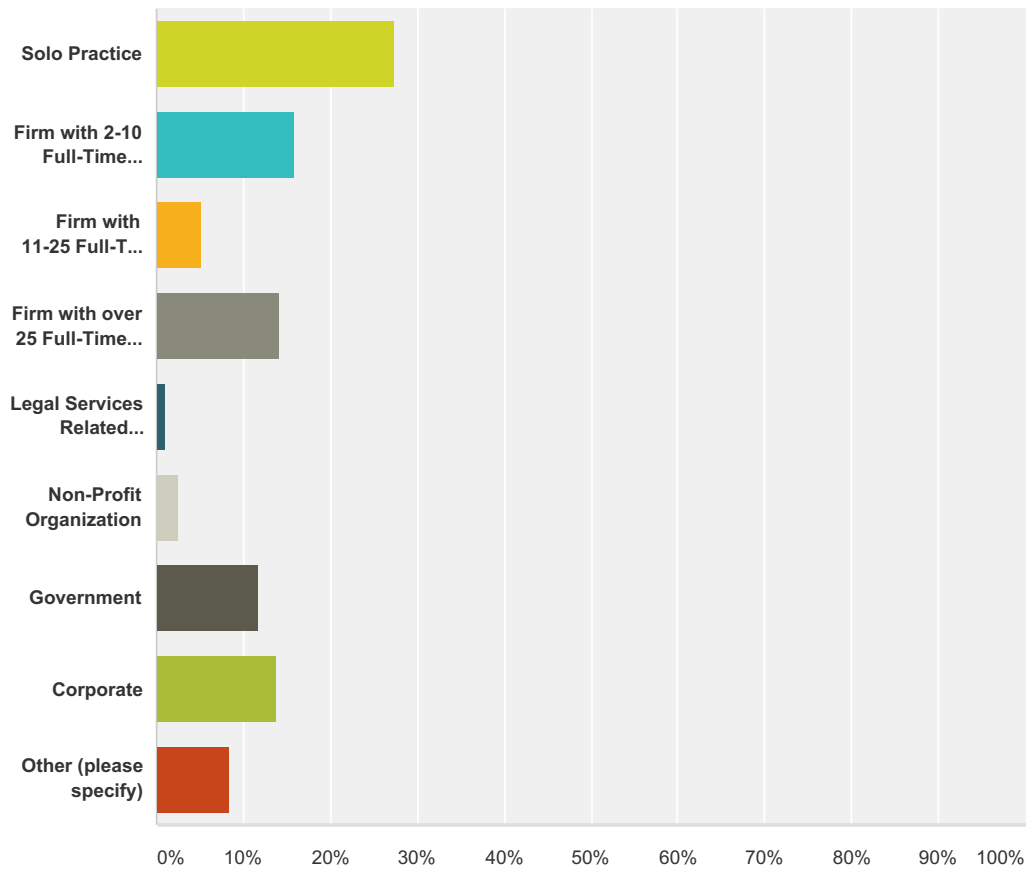
Answer Choices	Responses
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality/Legal Aid of Western Ohio	8.00% 2
Akron Bar Association Foundation	4.00% 1

## Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting (Calendar Year 2016)

Cincinnati Bar Foundation	16.00%	4
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation	8.00%	2
Columbus Bar Association/Foundation - Lawyers for Justice	16.00%	4
Community Legal Aid Services	4.00%	1
Dayton Bar Association Foundation	0.00%	0
Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project	0.00%	0
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation	4.00%	1
Ohio State Bar Foundation	16.00%	4
Ohio State Legal Services Association/Southeastern Ohio Legal Services/Ohio Poverty Law Center	12.00%	3
Ohio Military/Veterans Legal Assistance Project/Operation Legal Help Ohio	0.00%	0
Pro Seniors	4.00%	1
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland	36.00%	9
The Legal Aid Society of Columbus	24.00%	6
The Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati/Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio/Volunteer Lawyers Project	28.00%	7
Toledo Bar Association Pro Bono Program	8.00%	2
<b>Total Respondents: 25</b>		

### Q21 Do you work for/in a:

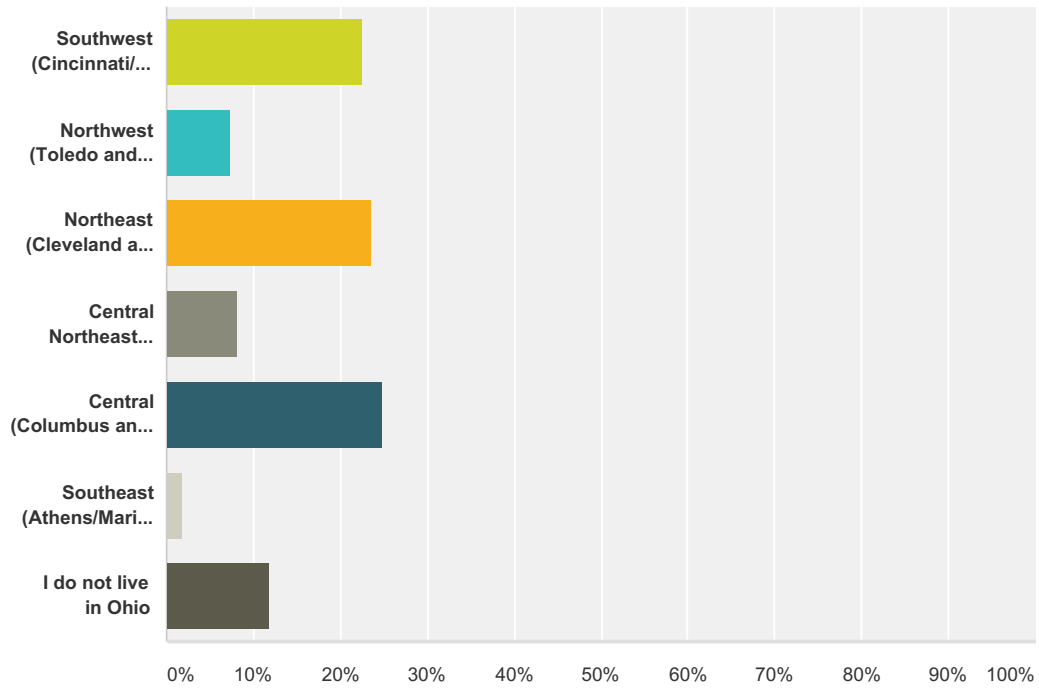
Answered: 1,461 Skipped: 234



Answer Choices	Responses	
Solo Practice	27.38%	400
Firm with 2-10 Full-Time Lawyers	15.81%	231
Firm with 11-25 Full-Time Lawyers	5.20%	76
Firm with over 25 Full-Time Lawyers	14.17%	207
Legal Services Related Organization	1.10%	16
Non-Profit Organization	2.46%	36
Government	11.77%	172
Corporate	13.76%	201
Other (please specify)	8.35%	122
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,461</b>

### Q22 In what part of the state do you live?

Answered: 1,461 Skipped: 234

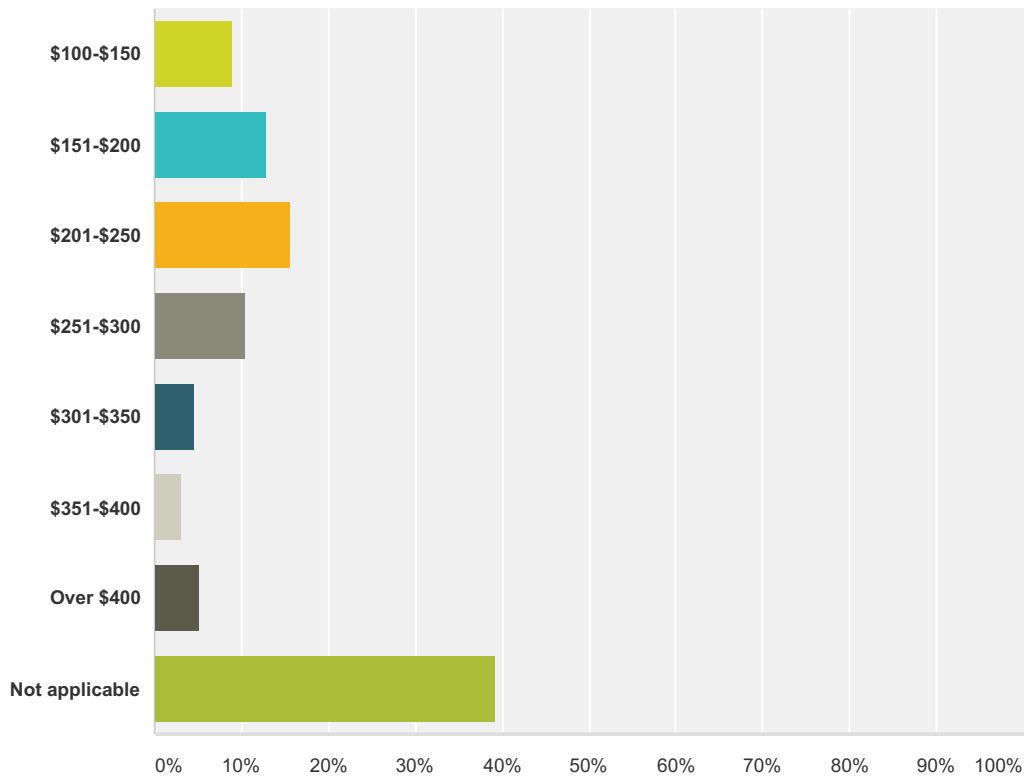


Answer Choices	Responses
Southwest (Cincinnati/Dayton and surrounding counties)	22.45% 328
Northwest (Toledo and surrounding counties)	7.26% 106
Northeast (Cleveland and surrounding counties)	23.68% 346
Central Northeast (Akron/Canton/Youngstown and surrounding counties)	8.08% 118
Central (Columbus and surrounding counties)	24.78% 362
Southeast (Athens/Marietta and surrounding counties)	1.92% 28
I do not live in Ohio	11.84% 173
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,461</b>



### Q23 What is your average hourly billing rate?

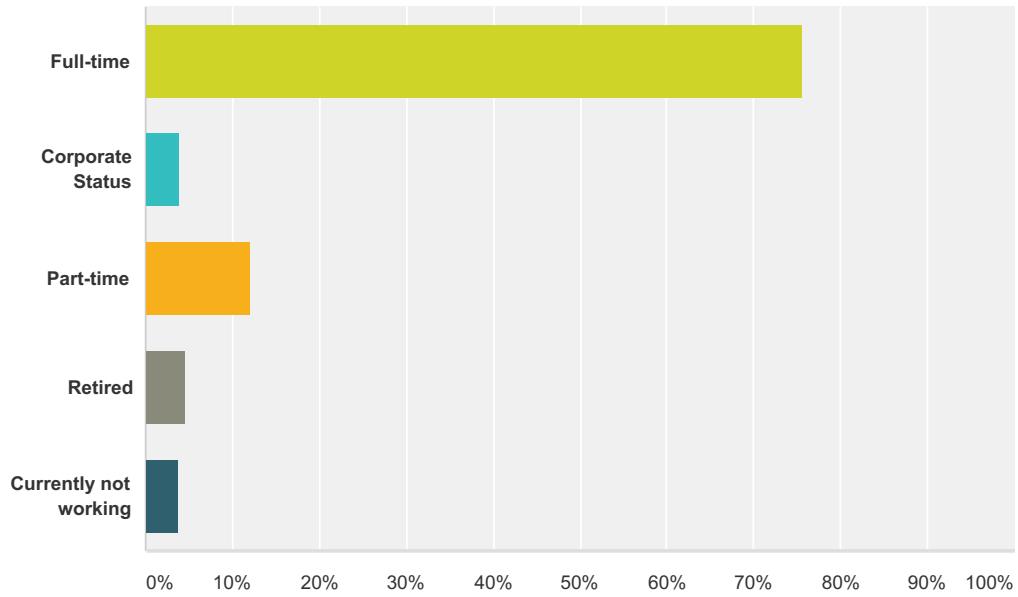
Answered: 1,459 Skipped: 236



Answer Choices	Responses
\$100-\$150	8.91% 130
\$151-\$200	12.89% 188
\$201-\$250	15.56% 227
\$251-\$300	10.42% 152
\$301-\$350	4.59% 67
\$351-\$400	3.22% 47
Over \$400	5.21% 76
Not applicable	39.20% 572
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,459</b>

### Q24 Work Status?

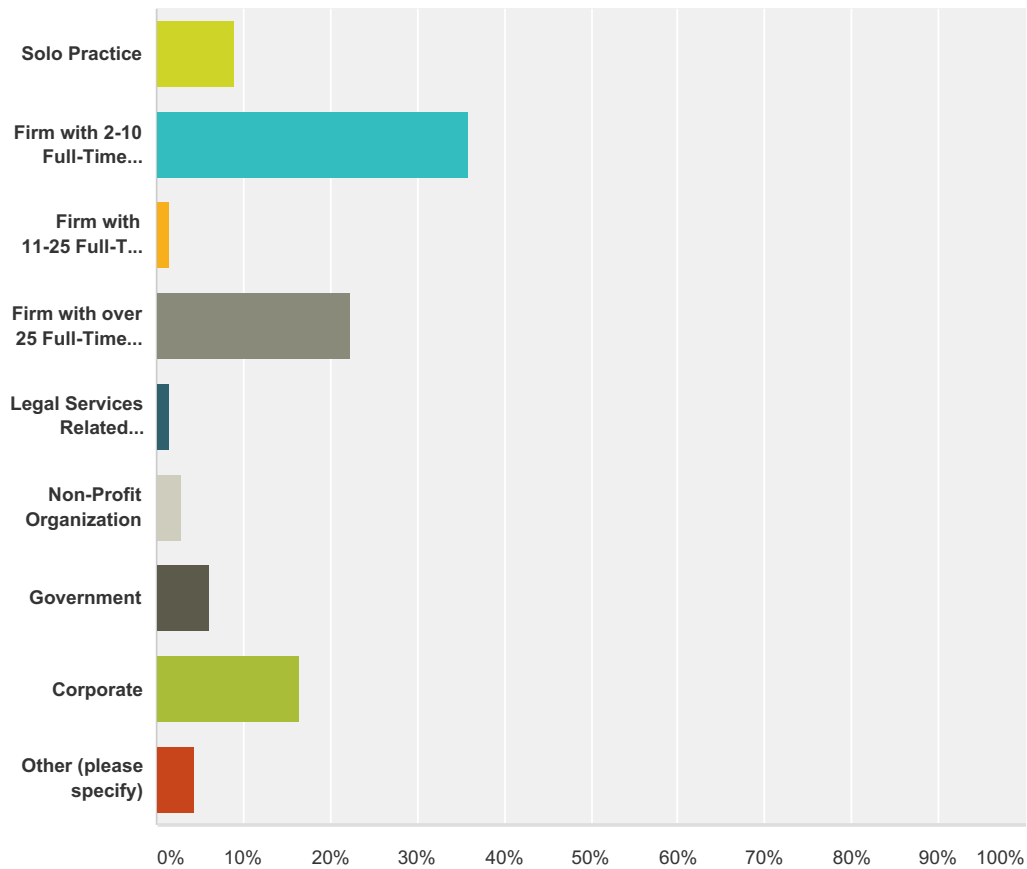
Answered: 1,458 Skipped: 237



Answer Choices	Responses
Full-time	75.65% 1,103
Corporate Status	3.91% 57
Part-time	12.14% 177
Retired	4.53% 66
Currently not working	3.77% 55
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,458</b>

### Q25 Do you work for/in a:

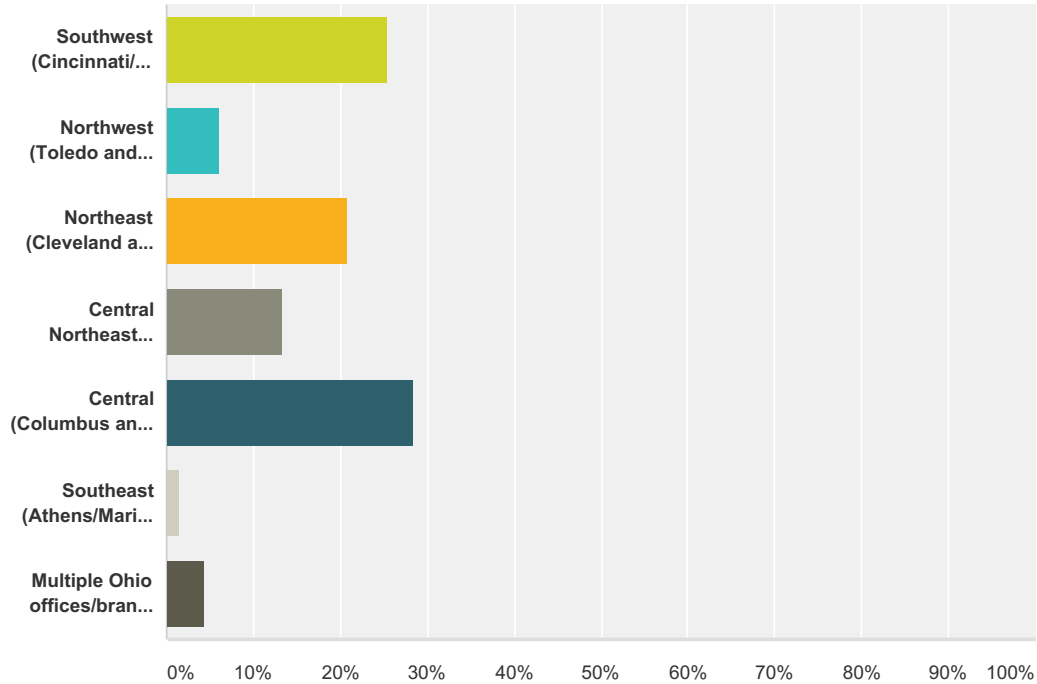
Answered: 67 Skipped: 1,628



Answer Choices	Responses	
Solo Practice	8.96%	6
Firm with 2-10 Full-Time Lawyers	35.82%	24
Firm with 11-25 Full-Time Lawyers	1.49%	1
Firm with over 25 Full-Time Lawyers	22.39%	15
Legal Services Related Organization	1.49%	1
Non-Profit Organization	2.99%	2
Government	5.97%	4
Corporate	16.42%	11
Other (please specify)	4.48%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>67</b>

### Q26 In what part of the state is your firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency situated?

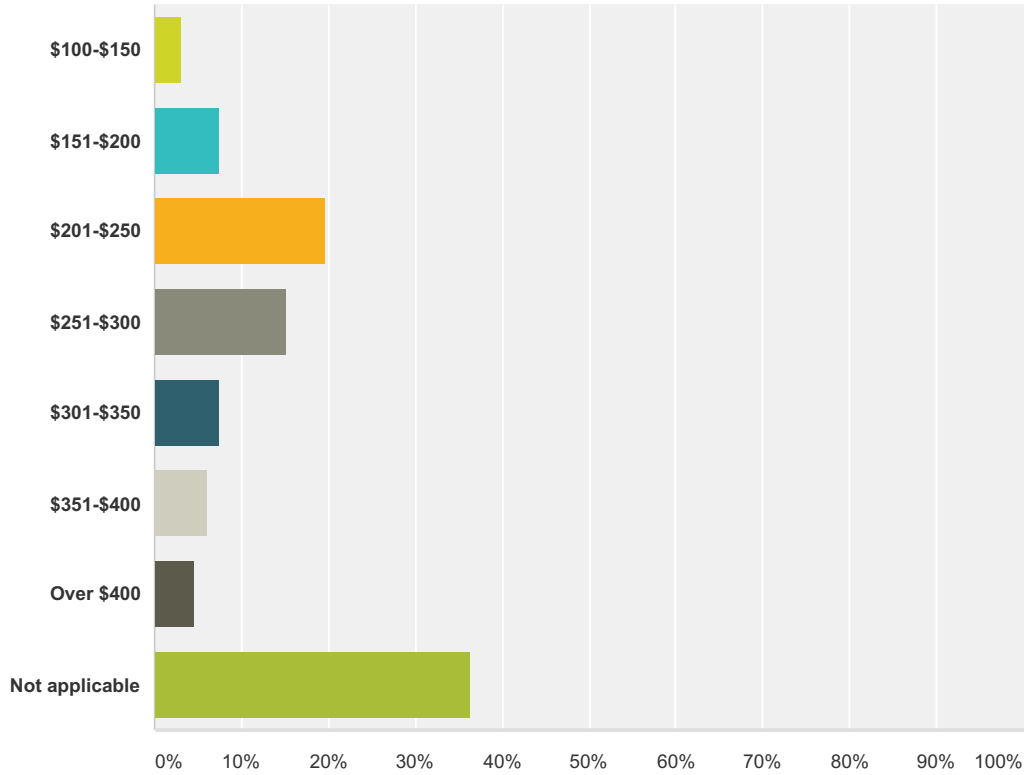
Answered: 67 Skipped: 1,628



Answer Choices	Responses
Southwest (Cincinnati/Dayton and surrounding counties)	25.37% 17
Northwest (Toledo and surrounding counties)	5.97% 4
Northeast (Cleveland and surrounding counties)	20.90% 14
Central Northeast (Akron/Canton/Youngstown and surrounding counties)	13.43% 9
Central (Columbus and surrounding counties)	28.36% 19
Southeast (Athens/Marietta and surrounding counties)	1.49% 1
Multiple Ohio offices/branches	4.48% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>

**Q27 What is the average hourly billing rate for attorneys in your firm (or office/branch), company, department or agency?**

Answered: 66 Skipped: 1,629



Answer Choices	Responses
\$100-\$150	3.03% 2
\$151-\$200	7.58% 5
\$201-\$250	19.70% 13
\$251-\$300	15.15% 10
\$301-\$350	7.58% 5
\$351-\$400	6.06% 4
Over \$400	4.55% 3
Not applicable	36.36% 24
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>