

And third, to make the legal system itself fairer for poor people.

The methods that have been used by our projects around the country are generally of three types. In the urban areas it's the neighborhood law office, staffed by anywhere from one to four lawyers, secretarial help, and very critically and very important by investigative aides that are employed out of the poverty population. These investigative aides are a human link between the law office and the poverty community, and they are very often able to come up with evidence and information that a trained investigator or an ex-police-man would not be able to come up with, because they are part of that community.

The second type of program and one that is used in some rural areas and some suburban areas where the poverty is more spread out, is the circuit rider programs. This will be one lawyer servicing a number of substations. He may be at one small town on one day and another small town another day of the week, on a regular schedule.

Then in some migrant areas and Indian reservations and sparsely settled rural areas we have used mobile law offices, so-called lawyer-mobiles. This is a van-type truck or a trailer equipped as a law office with a lawyer and a secretary, a little reception area, a library. They will go from one location to another, bringing justice to the poor.

No matter what the basic type of program involved, they have certain common characteristics—all of them involve poor on the decision-making board—the one that sets the basic policy for the program. In fact, on the average there is 35 percent representation of the poor on the boards of legal services programs.

Another common characteristic is that these programs do not take cases from which a lawyer could earn a fee. For instance, they would not take the case of someone—no matter how poor he was—if it was a fee-generating case, say, a personal injury case that any lawyer would be willing to take on a contingent-fee basis.

Another common characteristic is that they take all or nearly all types of civil cases.

And fourth, that they take steps to insure that the attorney-client relationship will be maintained throughout.

We have received recently reports from our operating projects as to how things are going in the field, and I guess one could say they are going almost too well, in terms of volume. In the last 6 months of calendar 1966 our projects handled 92,000 families in legal difficulty. In the first 3 months of calendar 1967 they handled 93,000 families with legal difficulties. In other words, they handled more in the last 3 months than in the prior 6 months.

The lawyers now are, on the average, handling 500 new cases per year. They are at an annual rate of 500 new cases per year, which is up from an annual rate of 300 new cases per year just 3 months ago. So the great need that the American Bar Foundation said existed is being proven by the experience of the projects.

This is of some concern to us, because most experts in the field feel that 500 cases per year is the absolute maximum that can be handled with any kind of quality service by an individual lawyer.

The types of cases that have been handled? In the 3-month period ending March 31, 1967, roughly 34 percent of the cases fell in the