

VBA Pro Bono Summit 2010

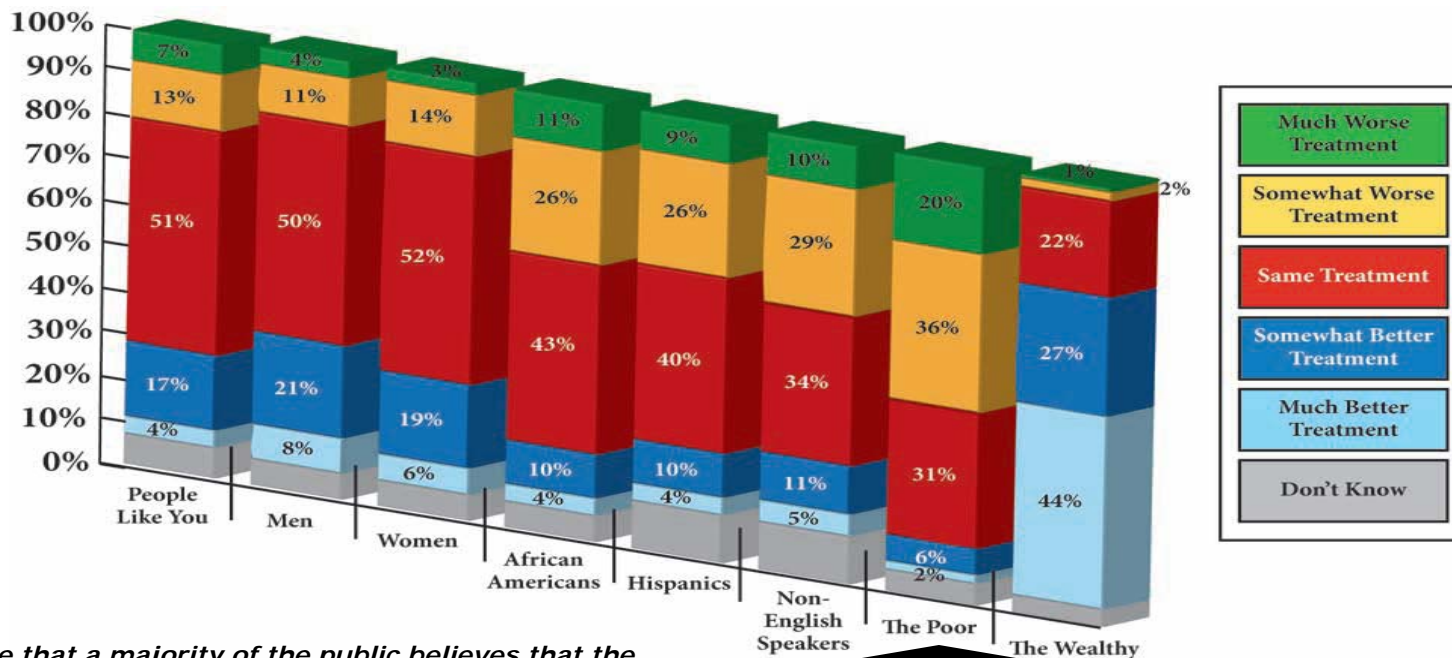
Materials Documenting the
Compelling Need for Increased
Pro Bono Assistance in Virginia

*Prepared by John E. Whitfield, Executive Director,
Blue Ridge Legal Services*

The Public's Perceptions about How Different Groups are Treated in Virginia Courts

What sort of treatment do you think the following groups of people receive in

Virginia Courts, compared to other groups?

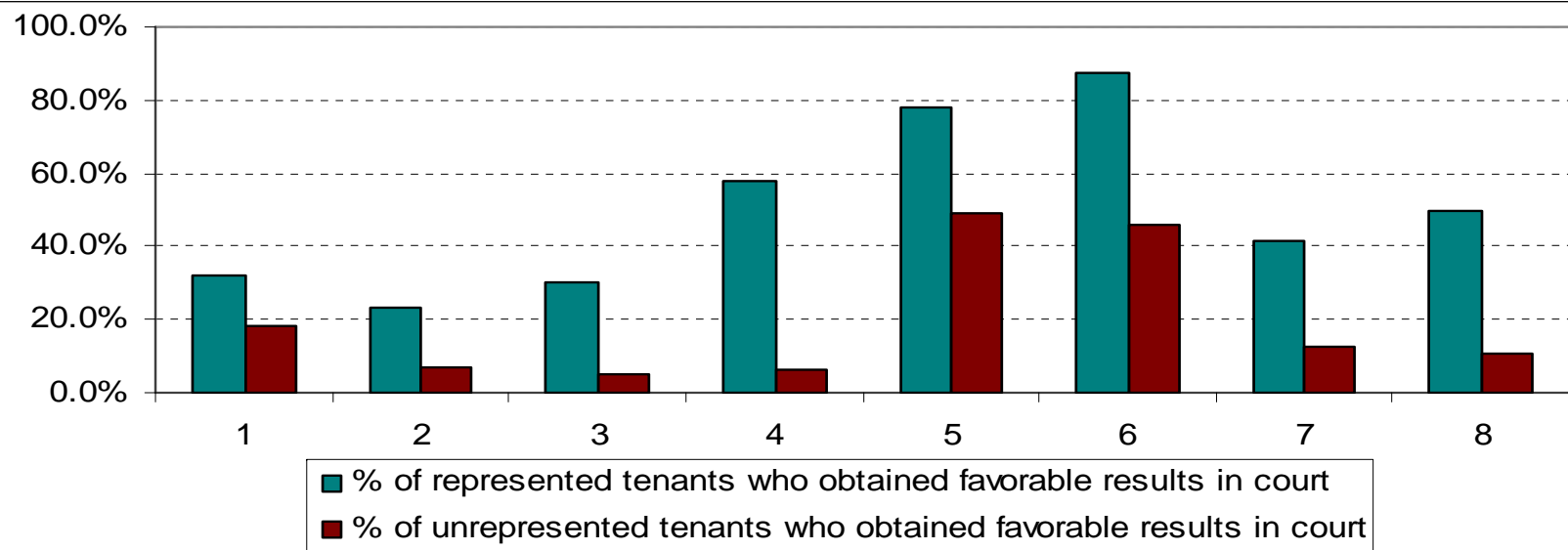


Note that a majority of the public believes that the poor receive worse treatment in Virginia courts, compared to other segments of the population.

Source: 2007 Citizens Survey, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia.

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Correlation Between Representation and Favorable Outcomes for Tenants in Landlord -Tenant Cases



Study #1: Court Study Group of the Junior League of Brooklyn, *Report on a Study of the Brooklyn Landlord and Tenant Court* 21 (1973).

Study #2: Steven Gunn, Note, *Eviction Defense for Poor Tenants: Costly Compassion or Justice Served?*, 13 YALE L. & POL'Y REV. 385, 411 (1995).

Study #3: Chadha, Lisa Parsons. 1996. *Time to Move: The Denial of Tenants' Rights in Chicago Eviction Court*, Chicago: Lawyers Committee for Better Housing, Inc.

Study #4: Rebecca Hall, *Eviction Prevention as Homelessness Prevention: The Need for Access to Legal Representation for Low-Income Tenants* (1991).

Study #5: Seron, Carroll, Greg Van Ryzin, Martin Frankel, and Jean Kovath. 2001. *The Impact of Legal Counsel on Outcomes for Poor Tenants in New York City's Housing Court: Results of a Randomized Experiment*. Law and Society Review 35(2): 419-34.

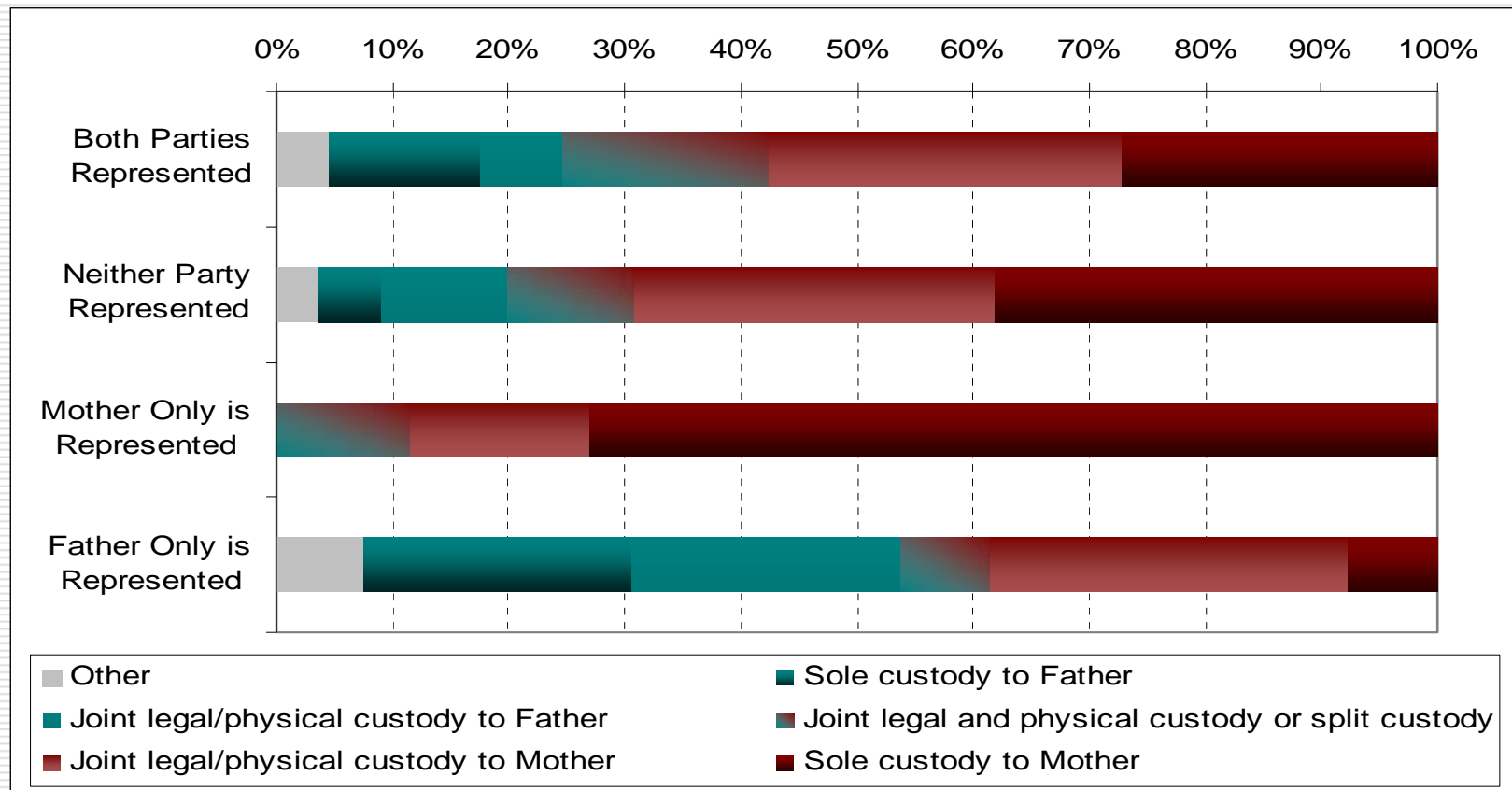
Study #6: Anthony J. Fusco, Jr. et al., *Chicago's Eviction Court: A Tenant's Court of No Resort*, 17 URB. L. ANN. 93, 114-16 (1979).

Study #7: Boston Bar Ass'n Task Force on Unrepresented Litigants, *Report on Pro Se Litigation*, 17 (1998), available at

<http://www.bostonbar.org/prs/reports/>

Study #8: Mass. Law Reform Inst., *Summary Process Survey*, 14 (2005)

Correlation Between Representation and Custody Outcomes

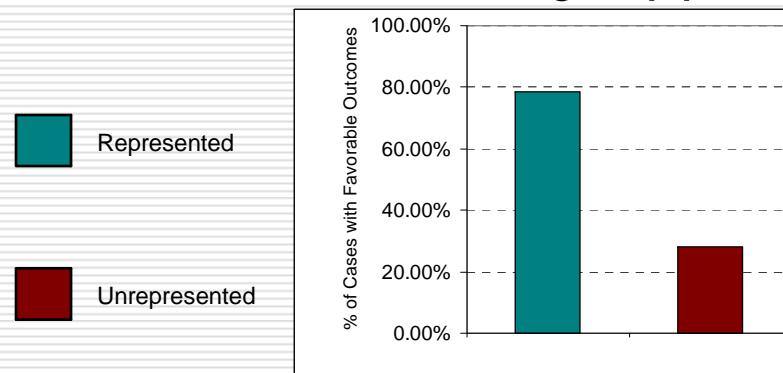


Source: The Women's Law Ctr. of Md., Inc., *Families in Transition: A Follow-up Study Exploring Family Law Issues in Maryland* (2006), available at <http://www.wlcmd.org/pdf/FamiliesInTransition.pdf>.

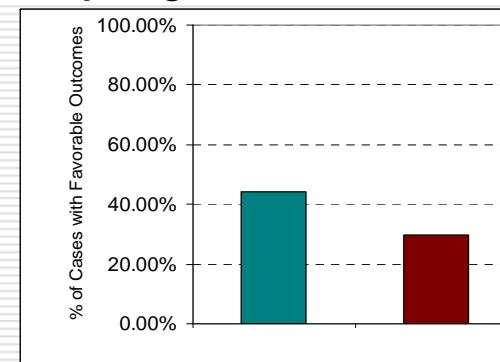
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Correlation Between Representation and Favorable Outcomes in Other Types of Cases Frequently Involving Low-Income Litigants

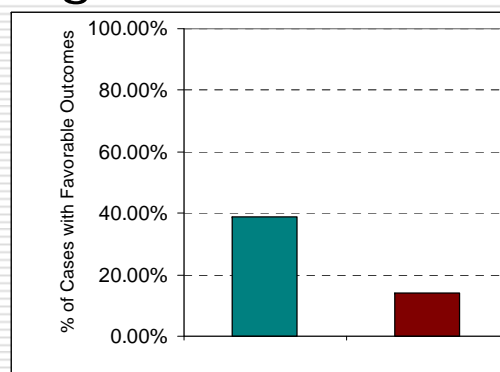
Social Security Appeals



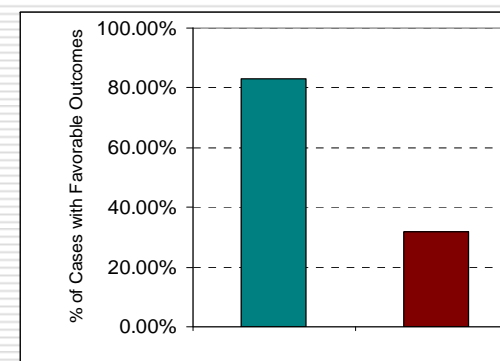
Unemployment Claims



Immigration Removal



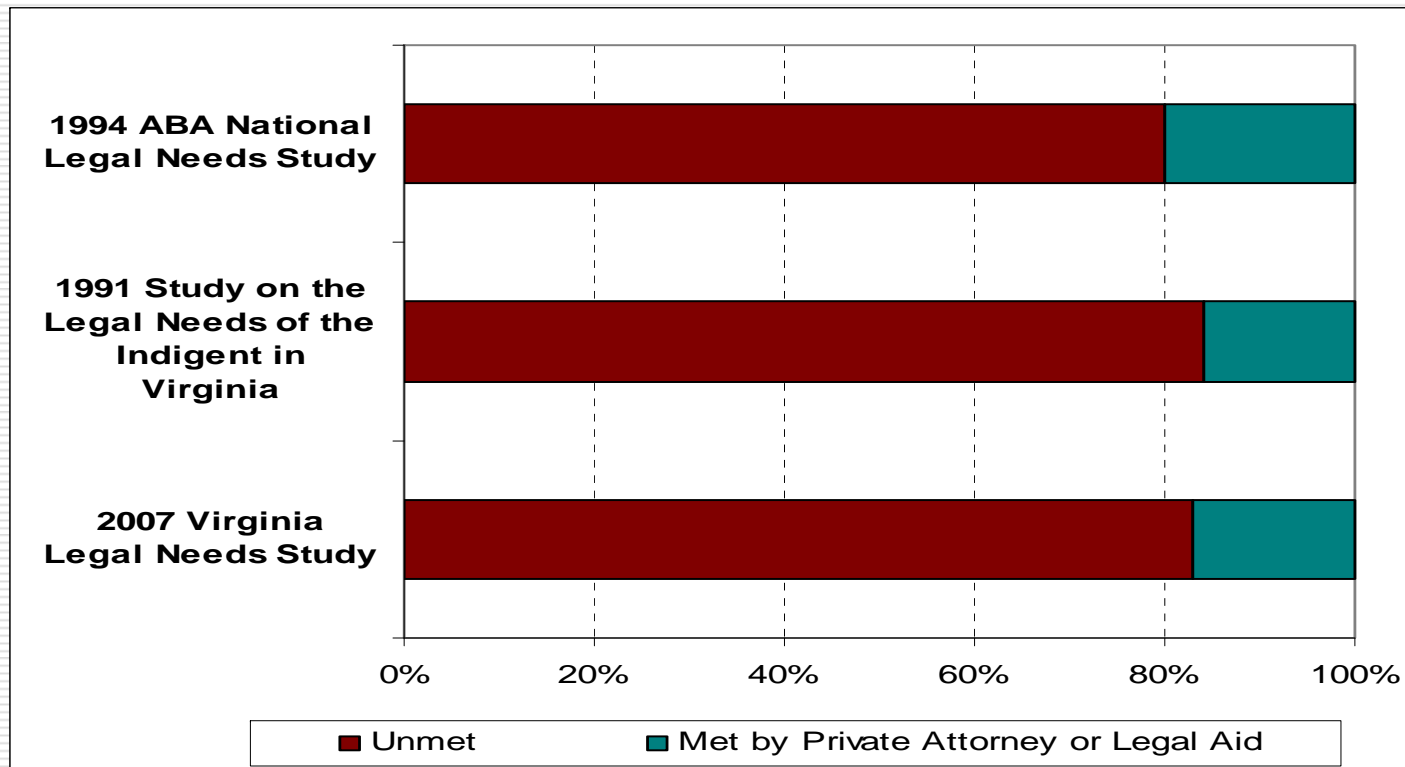
Domestic Violence



Source: Russell Engler, *Connecting Self-Representation to Civil Gideon: What Existing Data Reveal About When Counsel is Most Needed*, to be published in an upcoming edition of the Fordham Law Review. Virtually all of the outcome studies cited in these materials were referenced in this very helpful work by Professor Engler, who is currently Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Studies at New England College of Law.

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The Documented Unmet Civil Legal Needs of the Poor



Sources: *1994 ABA National Legal Needs Study*

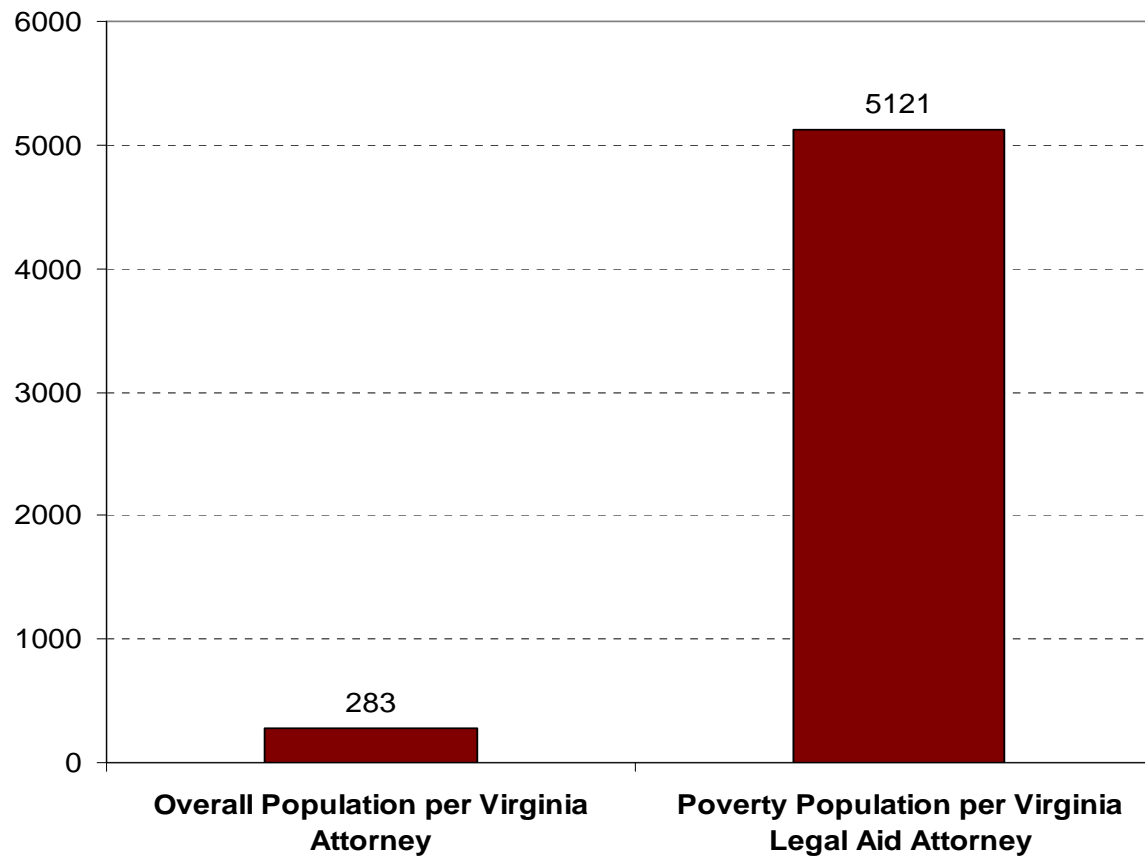
1991 Study on the Legal Needs of the Indigent in Virginia, commissioned by the Virginia State Bar and funded by the Virginia Law Foundation

2007 Virginia Legal Needs Study, commissioned by the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV) and funded in part by the Virginia Law Foundation

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Number of Persons Per Attorney

All Virginia Attorneys Compared with Legal Aid Attorneys



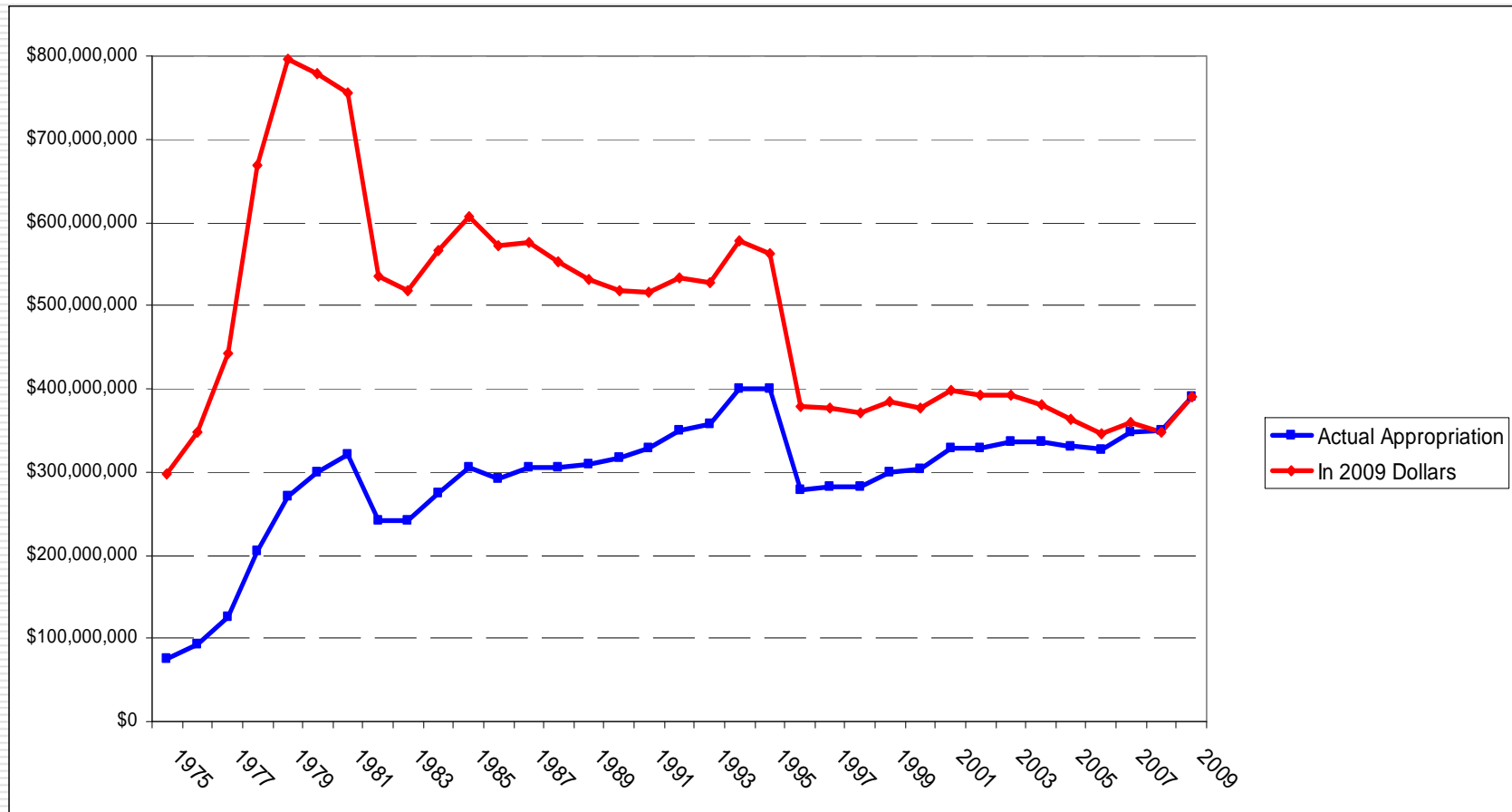
Sources:

Number of active Virginia Lawyers (27,901), VSB Membership Report, 4/1/10.

Number of Virginia Legal Aid Attorneys (157), LSCV Grant Applications, 2009-2010.

Virginia Population figure (overall population, (7,882,590) and poverty population (804,024), US Census website.

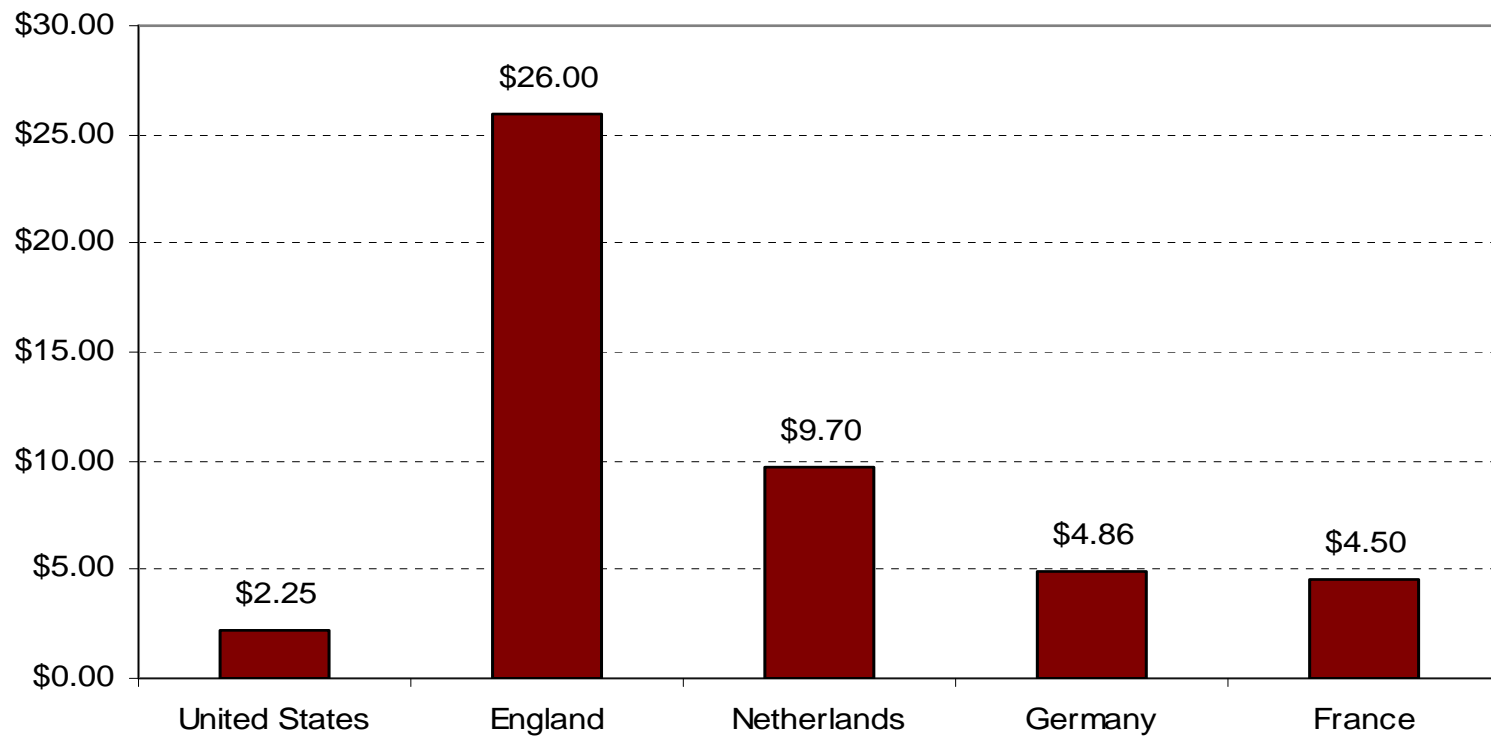
Federal LSC Funding Levels Since 1975



Source: Legal Services Corporation

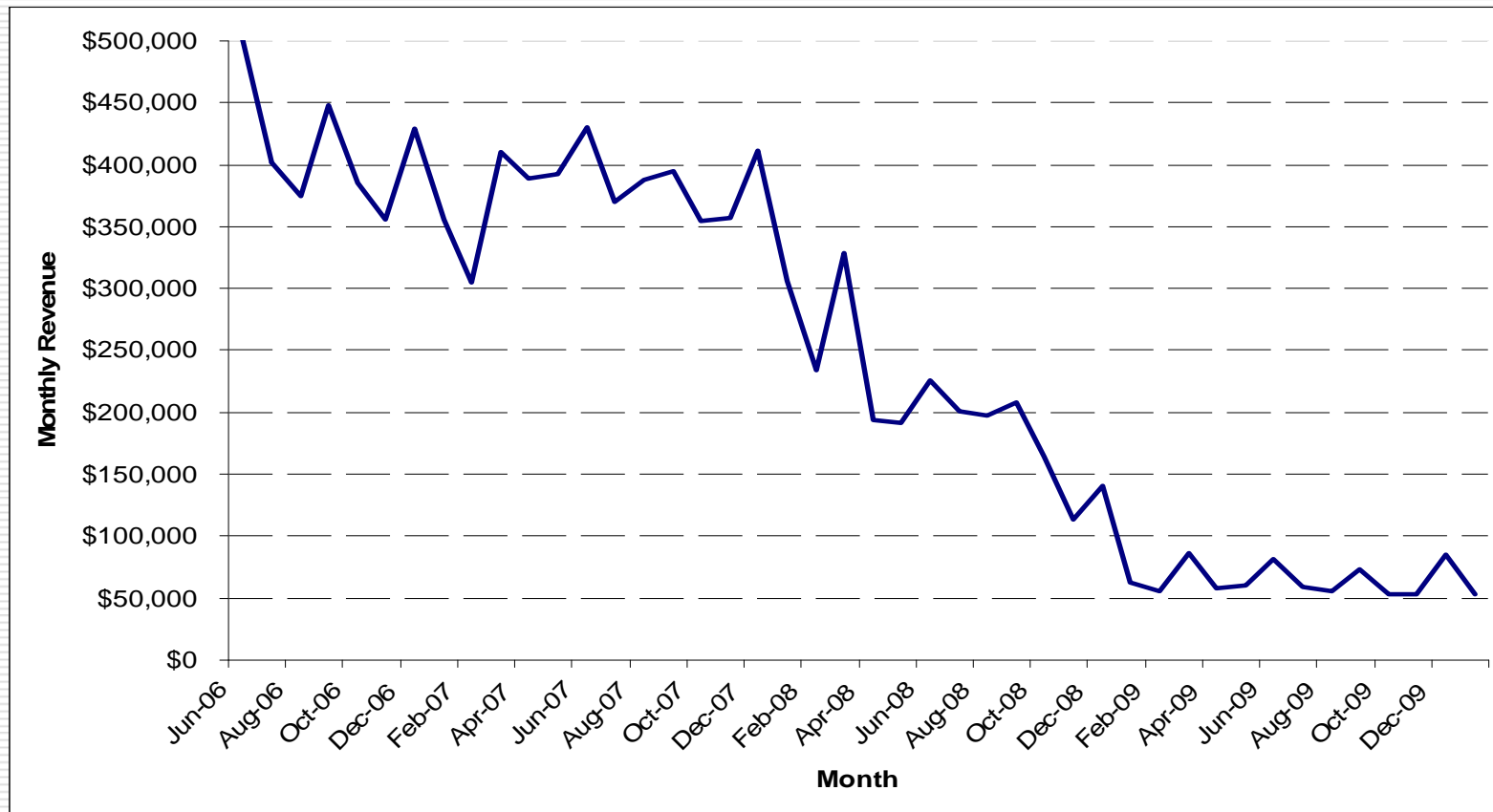
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Government Per Capita Spending on Civil Legal Services for the Poor



Source: *Access to Justice: Opening the Courthouse Doors*, The Brennan Center for Justice, 2007.

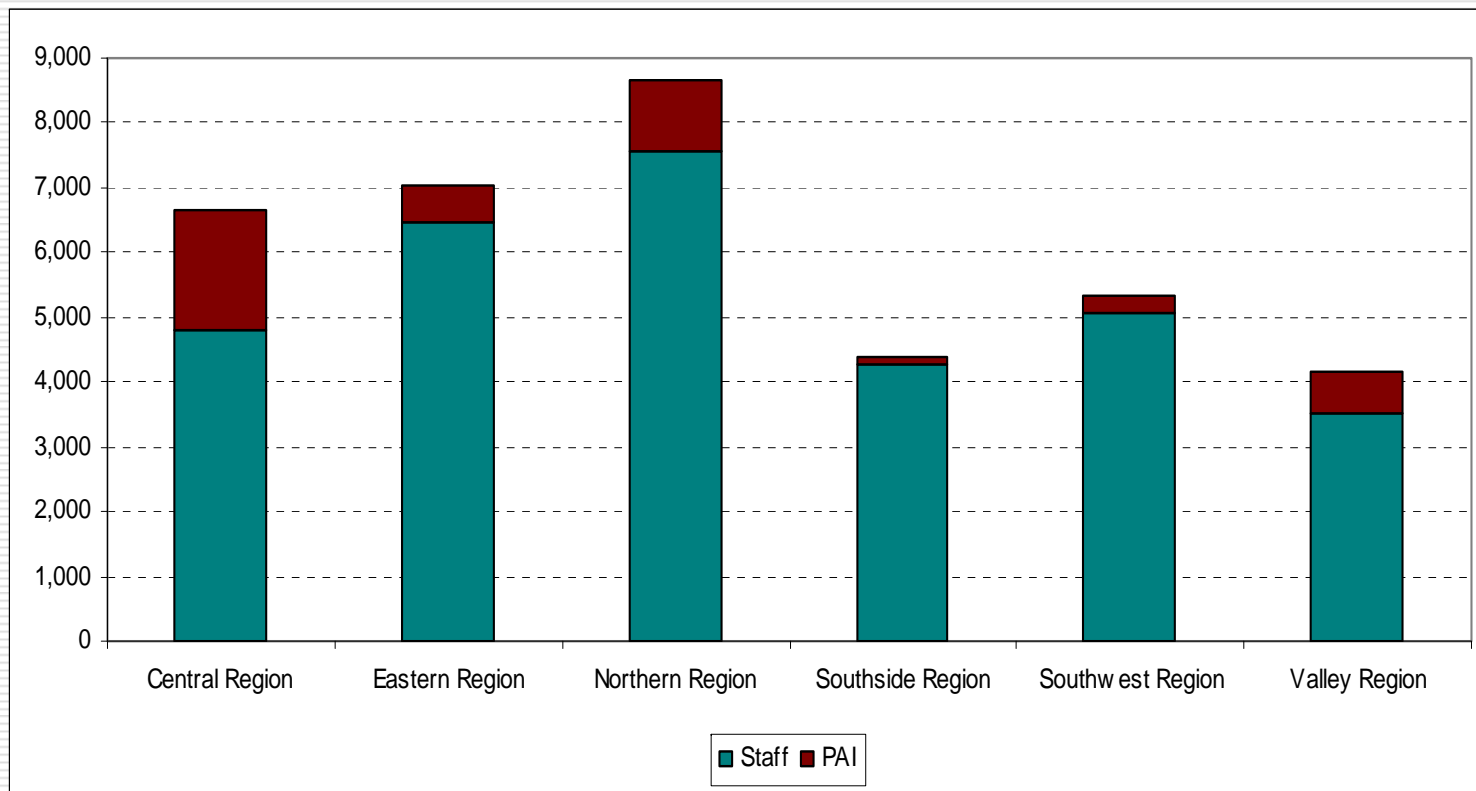
Declining IOLTA Revenue in Virginia 2006-2010



Source: Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV)

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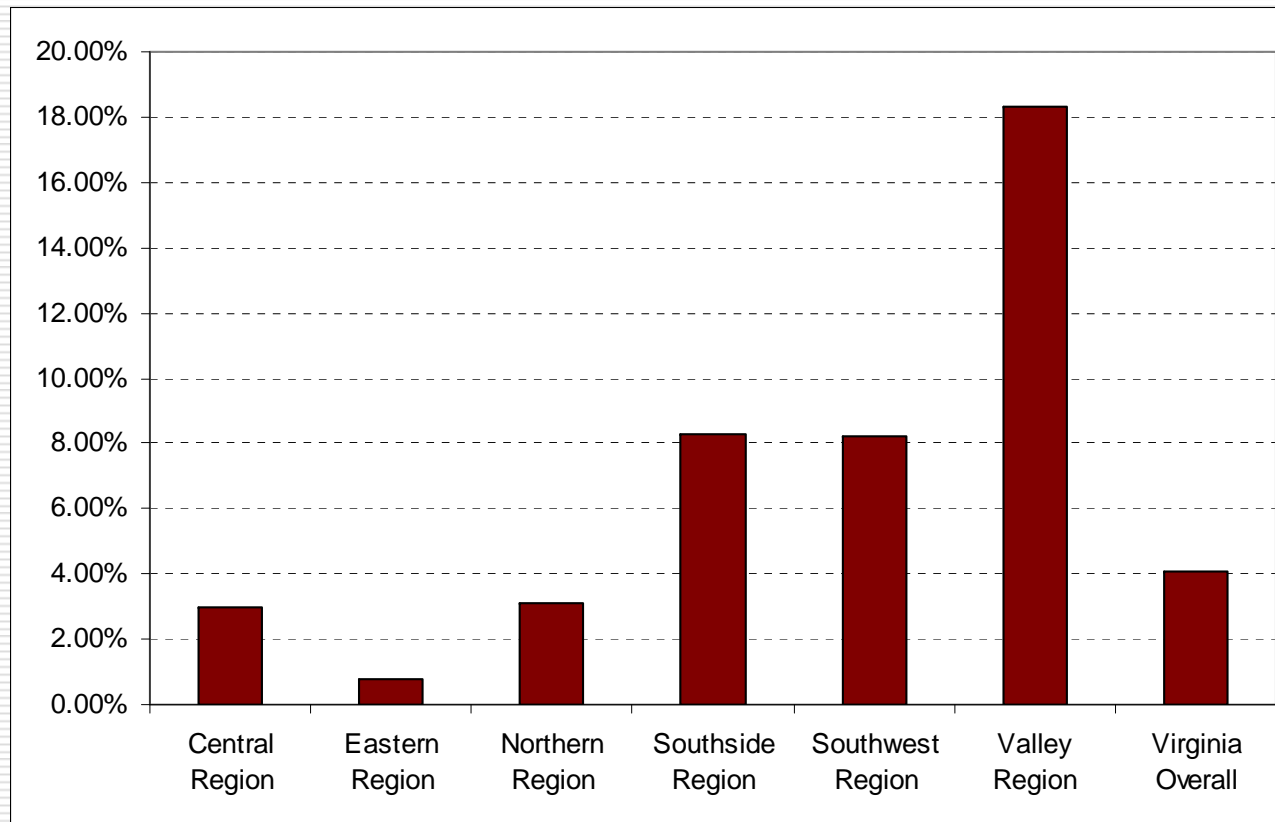
Number of Cases Closed by Legal Aid Staff and their Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Programs By Region- FY 2008-2009



Source: Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV)

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Percentage of Attorneys Who Participated in Legal Aid-Related Pro Bono Work, FY 2008-2009



Sources: Number of PAI Attorneys Participating in Legal Aid PAI Programs, LSCV
Number of Attorneys per Region, VSB Membership Report

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