American Bar Foundation

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A Select Bibliography of American Bar Foundation Research Virgil L. Pederson



The Legal Needs of the Public

Barbara A. Curran Senior Research Attorney, American Bar Foundation

> and Francis O. Spalding Professor of Law, Northwestern University

Preliminary Report of a National Survey by the American Bar Association Special Committee to Survey Legal Needs in Collaboration with the American Bar Foundation

To fill the need for empirical evidence on which to base policy decisions involving the availability of legal services to all segments of the American public, the American Bar Association and the American Bar Foundation have undertaken to determine the basic facts about the public's need for and use of legal services.

This report contains initial findings about the extent to which adult Americans have experienced legal problems, how these problems were dealt with and the extent to which lawyers' services were relied upon in resolving them, and the factors that influence decisions to use or not use lawyers' services. Included in this publication is the questionnaire that was administered to a representative sample of the adult population of the United States. A report on the history and objectives of the ABA Special Committee to Survey Legal Needs and the nature and scope of the total study is also included.

Further analysis and a final report will be completed and published in Fall 1976.

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