



### *Strategies for recruiting court monitor volunteers*

Depending on your area, recruiting volunteers can be a cinch or an unending challenge. A well planned out, consistent approach, however, will yield the long-term results needed to keep a steady stream of volunteers coming your way.

#### Know your audience

At a minimum, your volunteers need to be available for a daytime shift (think college students, retirees, parents with kids in school, unemployed, etc.), able to sit quietly in court for extended periods of time, able to hear proceedings, able to write clear notes or willing to communicate their findings back to you in some other manner. People who are easily bored, want to do direct service, or have a personal grudge with the system personnel are unlikely to be successful at court monitoring.

#### Develop a recruitment plan

Have a plan to keep your organization's name and your need for volunteers in the public eye. They may not initially respond but they'll remember your organization when they are ready. Be sure that you have monthly recruitment activities planned (contact WATCH for ideas). Make sure your web page includes detailed information about volunteering and applications volunteers can fill out and send in immediately.

#### Get the word out

The vast majority of WATCH monitors have a positive experience volunteering with our program and tell their friends about it. Ask your board members, current volunteers, and staff to help spread the word. Be sure that you are distributing your information to varied sources using varied means (e.g., seniors may respond better to a flyer than an e-mail). Contact colleges, law schools, church groups, mothers groups, senior centers, service clubs, community centers, clients, e-mail list serves, volunteer web sites, etc.

#### Contact WATCH!

WATCH has an in-depth training on managing court monitor volunteers. Call today to schedule a training for you and your staff.