

Registration Form

Name: _____
Employer: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____
Year Admitted: _____

I would prefer to handle pro bono cases in the following areas:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Article 81 Guardianship | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Parent Custody Petitions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Benefits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collection Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer/Contracts | <input type="checkbox"/> Rights of the Disabled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce | <input type="checkbox"/> Rights of the Elderly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eviction Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Estates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreclosure Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guardianship | <input type="checkbox"/> SSI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Proxy | <input type="checkbox"/> Torts (Defense Only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment Insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Income Tax | <input type="checkbox"/> Wills/Power of Attorney |

With additional training, I would be willing to handle pro bono cases in the following area(s):

I am willing to represent inmates in divorce actions.

- Yes No

I would prefer handling pro bono cases in the following counties:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allegany | <input type="checkbox"/> Erie | <input type="checkbox"/> Orleans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cattaraugus | <input type="checkbox"/> Genesee | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chautauqua | <input type="checkbox"/> Niagara | |

I speak the following foreign language(s):

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please return to Amanda Warner, Esq. by fax to (716) 847-0307 or by mail to 237 Main Street, Suite 1000, Buffalo, NY 14203.

8th Judicial District Pro Bono Committee

Co-Chairs:

Hon. Sharon S. Townsend
Kenneth A. Manning, Esq.

Members:

Diana M. Boccio, Esq.
John W. Cebula, Esq.
Amy L. Christensen, Esq.
Norman P. Effman, Esq.
Robert M. Elardo, Esq.
Hon. Paula L. Feroletto, J.S.C.
Paul Michael Hassett, Esq.
Sally A. Jaroszynski, Esq.
Hon. Douglas W. Marky
Hon. Henry J. Nowak, Jr.
Mary Ann Oliver, Esq.
John W. Ritchie, Esq.
Hugh M. Russ, Esq.
Hon. Rose H. Sconiers, J.S.C.
Prof. Anthony Szczygiel
Sharon A. Thomas
Oliver C. Young, Esq.

Pro Bono Coordinator:

Amanda M. Warner, Esq.
237 Main Street, Suite 1000
Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: (716) 847-0662, ext. 18
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Please contact the Pro Bono Coordinator at any time with questions concerning participation in the Committee's project.



ProBonoNY
AN ACCESS TO JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE POOR
SPONSORED BY THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

Introducing the

EIGHTH Judicial District PRO BONO COMMITTEE



“ However fine our courthouses, however well defined our constitutional ideals, however refined our legal processes, they are of little significance unless people in need can enjoy their benefit. ”

Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye

A Problem with a Real Solution – You.

A 1990 statewide study commissioned by the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Legal Aid found that no more than 14% of the poor's overall need for legal assistance was being met. Existing legal assistance programs throughout the 8th Judicial District cannot handle the volume of need in our communities. Therefore, without the help of private attorneys, low-income residents throughout the District with significant legal problems will not receive the legal help they urgently need this year.

The Formation of the Pro Bono Committee of the Eighth Judicial District.

The Pro Bono Committee of the 8th Judicial District was convened by Honorable Sharon S. Townsend to review the legal needs of low income people relating to civil matters and to develop a plan to increase attorney participation in pro bono work in our communities. The Committee is comprised of a cross-section of the 8th Judicial District's legal community, including members of the judiciary, the Unified Court System, private attorneys, legal services providers and UB Law School faculty.

The Committee's goal is to foster a working partnership among various stakeholders in our legal community which is dedicated to increasing the amount of civil pro bono representation throughout our District. The Committee's project is part of a growing statewide pro bono initiative, referred to as "ProBonoNY," sponsored by the New York State Unified Court System and overseen by Honorable Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives.

Volunteering Your Time and Services.

By doing your pro bono work in collaboration with the Committee's project, you will help us document the commitment of 8th Judicial District attorneys to improving access to justice for the poor. This information is significant to the efforts of the courts, the legislature, and the bar in addressing the unmet legal needs of our low-income citizens. It will also allow us to better recognize and honor lawyers' individual and collective pro bono efforts.

A Small Commitment.

Your legal talent and a limited amount of your time can help spread the workload and ease the legal problems of the disadvantaged.

The Committee is asking you to represent one to three income-eligible clients per year at no fee. Every effort will be made to tailor procedures to suit the needs of volunteers, so that referrals may be made in a manner that will prevent undue disruption of your schedule. Let us help you to fulfill your pro bono obligation as efficiently as possible.

Client Eligibility.

Eligible clientele must meet federally established income guidelines. Referrals through the Committee's project will be made only for non-criminal cases which do not generate fees. All clients and cases will be screened for eligibility and potential merit.

Cases that Match Your Interests and Schedule.

After the case has been screened and accepted for a referral, a member of the legal services agency serving the county in which the client resides will:

- Refer the case to you based upon your expressed interests.
- Select the case and its timing to meet your schedule and other time commitments.
- Discuss the case with you before you decide to accept it.

The Practical Benefits to You.

Your participation in pro bono work through the Committee's project will provide you with many benefits to ensure that high-quality legal services are provided to your clients and to serve as a thank you to our volunteers:

- Calendar preferences in many courts for cases taken through the project.
- Training materials, videotapes of trainings, and reference books, most of which are available for loan to volunteers.
- Free or low-cost training programs for CLE credit provided by experts in various areas of law to enable you to handle pro bono cases outside of your everyday practice area.

- A consultant panel of experienced attorneys who share their expertise with volunteers.
- Additional backup support and advice when needed.
- Sample pleadings and forms.
- Malpractice insurance provided by legal services agencies at no cost to all volunteer attorneys to cover claims arising from the handling of cases through the project.
- Assistance with receiving payment at assigned counsel rates for handling custody and visitation aspects of pro bono divorce cases.

CLE Credit.

In addition to earning CLE credits for attending the trainings described above, you may also be eligible to earn CLE credit for handling pro bono cases referred through the Committee's project.

Dedicated Pro Bono Committee Staff.

To implement the Committee's goals, Amanda Warner, an attorney from Erie County, has been hired as the 8th Judicial District Pro Bono Coordinator on a contract basis through the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project.

The Pro Bono Coordinator will work in close cooperation with the following legal services agencies to supplement and expand existing legal services to the poor by enhancing the pro bono work being performed by private attorneys in their communities:

- **Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project**
Primarily serving Erie County, but also providing additional limited services to other counties of the 8th Judicial District.
- **Legal Aid of Chautauqua County**
Serving Chautauqua County.
- **Niagara County Legal Aid Society**
Serving Niagara County.
- **Oak Orchard Legal Services**
Serving Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming Counties.
- **Southern Tier Legal Services**
Serving Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties.