

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

CHAMBERS OF
JOSEPH H. MCKINLEY, JR.
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

U.S. COURTHOUSE
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September 17, 2018

Dear Members of the Western District of Kentucky Bar:

I am pleased to announce that the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky has adopted a Pro Bono Civil Case Protocol which implements a new pro bono program designed to address the Court's growing need to provide counsel for indigent litigants in certain civil cases. Members admitted to the Court's bar are invited to volunteer to serve on a Pro Bono Counsel Panel.

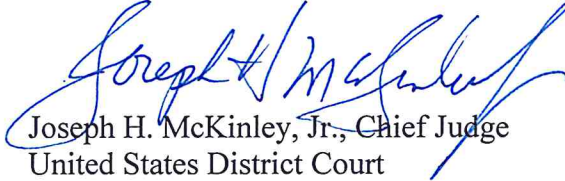
The Court's practice to date has been to rely upon attorneys who have generously answered the Court's call for assistance on an *ad hoc* basis. The Court's goal with the new pro bono program is to implement a more formal way for members of the bar to volunteer to serve as pro bono counsel. This new program allows lawyers with an interest in pro bono service to join a roster of volunteer attorneys from which the Court will make civil case appointments. Pro bono counsel will be asked to represent indigent parties in civil litigation after the Court has evaluated the case and made a determination to seek counsel for the unrepresented indigent party. The types of cases where the Court sees the greatest need for pro bono representation are prisoner civil rights case and employment discrimination cases filed by unrepresented litigants.

Those attorneys who represent indigent litigants pursuant to the Pro Bono Counsel Protocol will be providing a valuable service to their client, the Court, and the larger system of justice. In addition, volunteering enables members of the bar to develop federal court experience, particularly jury trial experience.

We hope both law firms and individual practitioners will consider volunteering for the Pro Bono Counsel Panel. Attorneys may volunteer to participate on the panel by submitting an application available on the Court's website. The Pro Bono Counsel Protocol, also available on the Court's website, provides for reimbursement of allowable expenses up to \$1,000 to be requested by counsel in compliance with the procedure set forth in the Protocol.

Your support of the Court's pro bono efforts will be greatly appreciated by the judges of the Western District of Kentucky. We look forward to seeing you in court.

Sincerely,



Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Chief Judge
United States District Court
Western District of Kentucky