

**REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRO BONO AND PUBLIC INTEREST SERVICE IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

To Be Presented at the Court's

**TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE IN PRO BONO AND PUBLIC INTEREST SERVICE
ON FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026, AT 1:00 P.M.**

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, in conjunction with the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, **is seeking nominations to be submitted to the court no later than March 3, 2026, for attorneys who have provided outstanding pro bono and public interest representation in civil and criminal matters before this Court.** The nominee should be someone who has demonstrated excellence in commitment to pro bono or public interest work by handling a matter in this District as a court-appointed attorney, pro bono attorney, or staff attorney for a not-for-profit agency, representing an indigent party in a civil or criminal matter.

Factors to be considered in the selection of the nominee include: dedication to pro bono or public interest work, outstanding achievement resulting from the representation of a large group of indigents, successful representation in a difficult case, outstanding negotiation and settlement skills in achieving a result without trial, extraordinary number of hours committed to pro bono work, or other distinguished performance. **All pro bono and public interest work considered must be work performed in this Court in civil or criminal matters on cases that are now completed and no longer pending.**

Please submit your nominations on or before. Please use [the attached PDF form](#). Please include a brief summary of the reasons why you think the person you nominate has performed outstanding pro bono or public interest work.

Please send your nominations via e-mail to: ProBono_Awards_ILND@ilnd.uscourts.gov.

If you have any questions, you may contact:

Chambers of Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall
2548 Dirksen Courthouse
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Telephone: 312-435-5600

PLEASE SHARE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.