

## Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION  
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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### FORMATION OF PRO BONO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHICAGO – Today, Chief Judge Rubén Castillo announced the creation of a Pro Bono Advisory Committee. Since 1985, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois has employed a Pro Bono Program whereby members of the Court’s Trial Bar are assigned to represent parties who lack the resources to retain counsel in civil cases by any other means.

The Committee, chaired by Bob Glaves, Executive Director of the Chicago Bar Foundation, will advise the Court regarding the assignment and retention of attorneys pro bono. Members of the Committee are: Alex Caffarelli, Colleen Connell, Gabe Fuentes, Mark Furlane, Cunyon Gordon, Greg McConnell, Deanne Medina, Michael Meyer, Alan Mills, Allegra Nethery, Kelly Tautges, Georgia Vlamis, Presiding Magistrate Judge Geraldine Soat Brown, and Clerk of Court Thomas Bruton.

While announcing the formation of the new Committee, Chief Judge Castillo stated, “Members of the Trial Bar have found that pro bono assignments in our Court constitute some of the most rewarding work of their careers.” Castillo continued, “I am proud of the hundreds of Trial Bar attorneys who have accepted pro bono assignments and represented their new clients to the fullest extent. This Committee will assist the Court in developing further ways to improve our program. For example, the Illinois Supreme Court recently amended its rules to expand to eligibility for lawyers who are in-house counsel to deliver pro bono legal services. Our district may need to make adjustments to tap into this new added resource.”

The number of pro bono assignments in the Northern District of Illinois has doubled since 2007, when 204 attorneys were recruited to assist pro se litigants in matters such as employment discrimination and prisoner civil rights. In 2013, the Court assigned 407 Trial Bar attorneys utilizing the Pro Bono Program.

The Court looks forward to working with the Pro Bono Advisory Committee. Further information about the Pro Bono Program can be found on the Court’s website under the Local Rules Section, including information on how recruited attorneys can seek reimbursement of certain expenses during the pro bono assignments.

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