

## **CAMERON COUNTY PRO BONO OPTIONS, January 11, 2010**

### **A. Cameron County Bar Association**

Cameron County does not have an established pro bono program at this time due to the low number of practicing attorneys in the county. Informally, they each do what pro bono work they can on their own.

### **B. Other Local Pro Bono Options**

#### **1. Northwestern Legal Services**

Staff at Northwestern Legal Services help people with pro se custody actions, but there is currently no pro bono participation through the organization.

#### **2. Middle District Bankruptcy Bar Association (Northern Tier)**

The Middle District Bankruptcy Bar Association (MDBBA) has established a pro bono program that provides attorneys to represent indigent parties in civil litigation after the Court has preliminarily evaluated the case and made a determination to seek counsel for the unrepresented indigent party. The MDBBA's pro bono chair is responsible for acting upon the Court's requests for volunteer attorneys.

Assignments generally are not made to a given attorney more frequently than twice a year, assuming that the volume of cases and the number of panel attorneys permit this approach. Upon occasion, the Court may also refer requests for pro bono counsel to Betty Abraham, Pro Bono Coordinator for North Penn Legal Services, Inc., for a possible referral to the MDBBA's pro bono panel. Or, in the alternative, to Mollie Oleyar, Administrator of the MDBBA, for referral to a member of the MDBBA panel for a low-cost private attorney.

For more information, please contact:

Vincent Rubino, Esquire  
Chair, Northern Tier MDBBA Pro Bono Program  
Newman, Williams, Michkin, Corveleyn, Wolfe & Fareri  
712 Monroe Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
Phone: (570)421-9090  
vrubino@newmanwilliams.com

#### **3. Middle District Federal Bar Association**

The Middle District Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has established a pro bono program that provides attorneys to represent indigent parties in civil litigation after the Court has preliminarily evaluated the case and made a determination to seek counsel for the unrepresented indigent party. The Chapter's pro bono chair is responsible for acting upon the Court's requests for volunteer attorneys.

Assignments generally are not made to a given attorney more frequently than once every five years, assuming that the volume of cases and the number of panel attorneys permit this approach. Another important feature of the program is the availability of a panel of mentors to assist volunteer attorneys in the mentors' specialized areas of practice.

For more information, please contact:

Stephen M. Greecher, Jr., Esquire

FBA Pro Bono Program Chair

Tucker, Arensberg, & Swartz

111 North Front Street

P.O. Box 889

Harrisburg, PA 17108-0889

Phone: (717) 234-4121 (Direct dial)

Fax: (717) 232-6802

[sgreecher@tuckerlaw.com](mailto:sgreecher@tuckerlaw.com)

<http://www.pamd.uscourts.gov/default.htm>