

## **CLINTON COUNTY PRO BONO OPTIONS, January 15, 2010**

### **A. Clinton County Bar Association**

The Clinton County Bar Association does not have any formal pro bono program. The Bar is relatively small and does not have any staff or administrative support to provide its own pro bono program.

CCBA does have an informal relationship with North Penn Legal Services. North Penn maintains a referral list and will contact attorneys on the list when a referral is needed. Attorneys and staff members from North Penn Legal Services regularly attend monthly Bar Association meetings and provide the Bar with updates regarding their needs and efforts.

There are no other active pro bono programs in the immediate area. Dickinson School of Law at University Park is starting a family law clinic. Those efforts are limited to Centre County, Pennsylvania for now but given the proximity there may be some expansion in the future to this area.

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

#### **1. 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:

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Chair, Northern Tier MDBBA Pro Bono Program  
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## **2. 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:

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