

ADAMS COUNTY PRO BONO OPTIONS, January 7, 2010

A. MidPenn Legal Services

Adams County pro bono program begins with MidPenn Legal Service staff screening clients for income eligibility and determining if it is appropriate for their referral to a pro bono attorney.

Cases accepted include Family law; Landlord/Tenant; Bankruptcy; Consumer Law; Unemployment Compensation; Living Wills; Power of Attorney; Small Estates; License Suspension/Mother Vehicle.

Once the pro bono attorney has interviewed the client and reviewed the case, the attorney is free to make his or her own merit determination regarding the client's claim and, if ethically appropriate, decline further representation. Each member of the bar is to accept at least two cases per year.

In Adams County the greatest pro bono need is in custody matters. When there is a conflict of interest case, which most often involve PFA, MidPenn tries to refer the client to a pro bono attorney. However, it is very hard in Adams County to refer custody conflict cases pro bono and clients often need to obtain a private attorney.

For more information, please contact:

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B. Other Local Pro Bono Options

1. Middle District Bankruptcy Bar Association (Southern 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 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 - Southern 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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