

MIFFLIN COUNTY PRO BONO OPTIONS, January 14, 2010

A. MidPenn Legal Services Regional Pro Bono Program

The pro bono program in Mifflin County is run by MidPenn Legal Services. It is actually a regional program that includes, Bedford, Blair, Clearfield, Centre, Huntingdon, Mifflin and Juniata counties. The Program is coordinated by a MidPenn Employee Jessie Kern. MidPenn recruits private attorney volunteers from the county by sending out a mailing to all members of the county bar association. Attorneys are asked to indicate the types of cases they would prefer to handle and the number of pro bono cases they would be willing to take in a given year. MidPenn then refers appropriate cases to those volunteers. These are only civil cases.

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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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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