

## **MONROE COUNTY PRO BONO OPTIONS, January 2010**

### **A. Monroe County Pro Bono Program**

Monroe County has a small pro bono program. North Penn Legal Services works with the County Bar Association and its pro bono committee. There are currently about eight lawyers who have volunteered to assist low income clients in child custody matters. On January 12, 2010 Monroe County held a seminar with about 20 lawyers on landlord tenant and credit card cases. The seminar should add more lawyers to the volunteer list and will allow the county to begin sending some LT cases and credit card defense cases to these volunteer lawyers. Referrals for the Monroe County Pro Bono Program are made through North Penn Legal Services. NPLS screens the client and then if the client meets the income guidelines, NPLS sets up a consultation with an attorney that has agreed to accept referrals.

For more information, please contact:

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### **B. Other Local 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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