

United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of North Carolina
Pro Bono Program Volunteer Information

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina is pleased to announce the establishment of a pro bono program to help provide assistance to certain unrepresented parties that are unable to employ an attorney on their own behalf. Attorneys are encouraged to assist those in need by participating in the program.

Attorney Participation: An attorney may participate in the program by completing the attached Volunteer Attorney Form and submitting it to the Clerk of Court.

Scope of Representation: The program will be strictly limited to representation in adversary proceedings and certain contested matters, instances that require litigation skills that a pro se party may lack. An appointed attorney will provide representation throughout the adversary proceeding or until resolution of the contested matter, unless the court relieves the attorney of the appointment.

Appointment of the Attorney: The pro se party shall submit an application for pro bono services, and if the application is granted, the court will enter an order appointing a volunteer attorney to provide representation. The list of volunteer attorneys is maintained by the Clerk of Court. Generally, appointments from the list will be made on a rotational basis. However, the program is voluntary and no attorney is required to accept representation on a particular matter. Volunteers may decline a request for representation because of a conflict of interest or for any other reason. An attorney may leave the volunteer list by writing a letter to the Clerk of Court.

Confidential Mentors: Attorneys with significant bankruptcy experience may also serve the pro bono program by acting as confidential mentors to volunteer attorneys who are less familiar with bankruptcy practice. The identity of confidential mentors will not be known to the pro bono clients.

Relief from appointment: An attorney who is appointed to represent a party through the pro bono program is obligated to provide competent representation throughout the adversary proceeding or until resolution of the contested matter. An attorney who is appointed may file with the court a motion for relief from the appointment order. The motion must establish good cause and be filed promptly so that

adjudication of the adversary proceeding or contested matter is not delayed. If a motion for relief from the appointment is granted, the court may enter another order of appointment.

How Participants Are Chosen: Each individual seeking pro bono representation shall submit an application on the form provided by the clerk's office. The form requires the applicant to provide complete, accurate, and current information about the applicant's income and assets, as well as other pertinent financial information. The determination of eligibility for the pro bono program will be made by the court. In evaluating the application, the court may, if relevant, examine the applicant's bankruptcy schedules and statement of financial affairs. The court also may require the applicant to provide proof of income or assets, such as recent pay stubs or bank account statements.

Case Costs: Generally, program volunteers may not share in any award that may be received by a pro bono client. However, the court retains the discretion to alter this result in the case of an extraordinary recovery. At present, the court has no ability to defray the costs of litigation. These are the responsibility of the represented party, although pro bono counsel may choose to incur these expenses without repayment as part of the representation if the represented party is unable to meet them.

If you are interested in volunteering for the pro bono program, please complete and submit the attached application to the clerk's office. Thank you for your interest in the program.

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of North Carolina
Volunteer Attorney Form**

1. Name:
2. Firm:
3. Address: _____

4. Office Telephone:
- Email Address:
5. Bar admissions and years:

6. Type of law practice:

7. Bankruptcy litigation/other litigation experience:

8. Please check if you are willing to serve as any of the following:

A pro bono program attorney

A confidential mentor to pro bono program attorney

9. Languages spoken (other than English):

10. I will accept appointments in the following locations:

Durham

Greensboro

Winston-Salem

11. Please list two attorney references who are familiar with your law practice:

Reference 1:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Law Firm/Organization: _____

Reference 2:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Law Firm/Organization: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return to:

Reid Wilcox, Clerk of Court
ATTN: Pro Bono Program
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
101 S. Edgeworth Street
Greensboro, NC 27401