

THIRD Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

Chair:

Honorable Barbara L. Crowder
Circuit Court of Madison County
155 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
blcrowder@co.madison.il.us
618-296-4411

September 9, 2014

Dear Law Firm or Corporate Legal Department Leader:

Pro Bono Coordinator:

Betsy Mahoney
Madison County Courthouse
155 North Main Street, Room 24
Edwardsville, IL 62025
bimahoney@co.madison.il.us
618-296-5921

As the chair of the Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, I am writing to ask for your assistance in increasing participation in providing pro bono legal services to those in our community who are unable to afford legal representation in civil legal matters.

Members:

Gail Donnelly Bader
Attorney At Law

Tanja Cook
Lucders, Robertson & Konzen, LLC

Angela Donohoo
Levo-Donohoo, LLC

Clarissa P. Gaff,
*Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance
Foundation, Inc.*

Amy Garrett
Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC

Honorable Janet Heflin
Circuit Court of Madison County

Honorable John Knight
Circuit Court of Bond County

Bradley A. Lavite
*Madison County Veterans'
Assistance Commission*

Amy Maher
Catholic Charities Legal Services

Amy L. Morgan
*Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance
Foundation, Inc.*

Jo Anna Pollock
Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC

Maureen Schuette
Schuette Law Office

Sarah D. Smith
*Madison County State's
Attorneys Office*

Jaime Stipcak
Madison County Self-Help Center

Christopher Threlkeld
*President, Madison County
Bar Association*

Nicolette S. Watson
*Madison County Veterans'
Assistance Commission*

David A. Weder
Lewis, Rice & Fingersh, L.C.

The Illinois Supreme Court has recognized the need to make access to justice a high priority for everyone in the legal system, and formed the Access to Justice Commission in 2013. Locally, we established the Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, a collaborative effort with the Public Interest Law Initiative, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation and our local bar associations. This Committee brings together lawyers and judges from across our Circuit to expand the availability of pro bono legal assistance. Our legal community has had a longstanding tradition of providing pro bono legal assistance, and for that we should be congratulated. However, the number of unrepresented individuals and families has increased significantly, and more pro bono assistance is needed.

In an effort to recognize and encourage pro bono locally, the Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee has developed the enclosed Pro Bono Pledge. This Pledge has two purposes: 1) to recognize and celebrate those law firms and corporations already doing pro bono; and 2) to encourage others to increase their pro bono participation. Whether your law firm or corporation has a longstanding commitment to pro bono, or you are willing to increase your pro bono participation, we hope that you will take this Pledge on behalf of your law firm or corporation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the work of the Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee or the Pro Bono Pledge. Thank you for your consideration and I hope to receive your completed Pledge soon.

Sincerely,

Judge Barbara L. Crowder
Chair, Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

Enclosure

Staff:

Michael G. Bergmann
Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
mbergmann@pili.org
312-832-5129

P.S. Save the date for our Celebrate Pro Bono Luncheon on Tuesday, October 21st. Additional details can be found online at www.pili.org/3rdcircuit.

www.pili.org/3rdcircuit

