

SIXTH Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

Chair:

Mark C. Palmer
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March 30, 2015

Dear Law Firm or Corporate Legal Department Leader:

Members:

John H. Elder
Meyer Capel
Chief Judge Daniel Flannell
Sixth Judicial Circuit
Lauren J. Pashayan
*Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance
Foundation, Inc.*
Jeffrey D. Richardson
The Law Office of Jeffrey D. Richardson
Ramona M. Sullivan
*Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance
Foundation, Inc.*
Rebecca Myhr Szajna
University of Illinois College of Law
Susan Zielke
*Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance
Foundation, Inc.*

As the chair of the **Sixth 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.

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 Sixth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, a collaborative effort with the **Public Interest Law Initiative** and **Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation**. 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.

Staff:

Michael G. Bergmann
Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
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In an effort to recognize and encourage pro bono locally, the Sixth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee has developed its [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 Sixth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee or the Pro Bono Pledge. Thank you for your consideration and I hope to receive your completed Pledge soon.

Best,



Mark C. Palmer
Chair, Sixth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

Enclosure

P.S. We'll be planning two free CLE programs later this year in Decatur and Savoy, so keep an eye on www.pili.org/6thcircuit for more details in the coming months.