

PRESS RELEASE

January 20, 2015

**Contact: Judge Barb Crowder
(618) 296-4576**

**Office of the Chief Judge
Madison County Courthouse
Edwardsville, IL 62025**

For immediate release

LAWYERS PROVIDE FREE LEGAL HELP

Legal Advice and other volunteer efforts are provided through the Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee and its programs. In the last quarter of 2014, 23 appointments were provided at the Madison County Law Library to low income individuals free of charge. The Legal Advice Clinic was created to provide legal information to those who do not have an attorney and are of limited incomes.

During October through December of 2014, 23 appointments were seen by volunteer attorneys. The dedicated attorneys who gave their time were:

Brad Allen, Will Asa, Brenda Baum, Shannon Bradford, Bridget Buckley, Kathy Buckley, William Daniel, Angela Donohoo, Derek Filcoff, George Filcoff, Teri Havron, Joe Hill, Patrick King, Christine Kovach, Mike Meehan, Terry O'Leary, Holly Reese, Randy Steele, Mike Wesley, Ron Williams, and Audra Zobrist.

In addition to the free legal appointments, the Family Pro Bono Mediators and GAL program created by the committee assigned 21 guardians ad litem in family and probate cases and 29 mediators who served in custody and visitation disputes free of charge. There were additionally 16 individuals who handled family division mediations at reduced fees.

"Working with the attorneys who donate their time to assist Madison County residents of limited means is very gratifying," stated Judge Barb Crowder, Chair of the Third Circuit Pro Bono Committee. "These lawyers are working hard in their own offices but take the time to help the public just because they are needed," she added.

The Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee reminds members of the public that free appointments to low income members of the public who do not have attorneys are available by appointment on any legal subject except criminal law, including but not limited to subjects such as family law or areas such as debt collection, landlord tenant, small claims, or any other civil area of law. The free appointments are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The appointments are for those of limited incomes who do not have attorneys and qualifying information will need to be provided. To make an appointment or to volunteer, call 618-296-5921 or e-mail Betsy Mahoney at bemahoney@co.madison.il.us.