

# FIFTH Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

Chair:

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March 19, 2015

Dear Law Firm or Corporate Legal Department Leader:

As the chair of the Fifth 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 Fifth 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 with the goal of expanding 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 Fifth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee has developed its [Pro Bono Pledge](#). Whether your law firm or corporation has a longstanding commitment to pro bono services, or you are willing to start now, I hope that your law firm or corporation will take this Pledge. I also ask that you consider the additional level of commitment, the Abraham Lincoln Commitment, that mirrors the Coles-Cumberland Bar Association's annual requirement that each member either provide 10 hours of pro bono legal assistance or make a financial contribution of \$250 to support legal aid.

In exchange for taking the pledge, with or without the additional level of commitment, the Fifth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee is offering a half day CLE program at the Charleston Carnegie Public Library on Friday, May 15, 2015. More information about and registration for this program is available at [www.pili.org/5thcircuit](http://www.pili.org/5thcircuit). Please note that although the CLE is free, advanced registration is required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the work of the Fifth 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,



Angelica W. Wawrzynek  
Chair, Fifth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

P.S. Save the date for our 4th Annual Fifth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Week Celebration Dinner on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 in Mattoon. Details will be available soon at [www.pili.org/5thcircuit](http://www.pili.org/5thcircuit).

Members:

L. Kaye DeSelms Dent  
Frisse & Brewster Law Offices

Judge Millard S. Everhart  
Fifth Judicial Circuit

Drew P. Griffin  
Asher & Smith

Brent Holmes  
Heller & Holmes, PC

Jacqueline M. Lacy  
Vermilion County Public Defender

Nancy Livingston  
Kessler, Nelson, Garman, Brouger  
& Townsley, P.C.

Marilyn B. Resch  
Resch Siemer Law Office, LLC

Ramona M. Sullivan  
Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance  
Foundation, Inc.

Paul E. Wieck  
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