

ELEVENTH Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

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Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
www.pili.org/11thcircuit
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Dear Colleague:

As the Co-Chairpersons of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, we are reaching out to you and your firm hoping that you will consider joining committing to the Eleventh Circuit Pro Bono Pledge.

In an effort to recognize and encourage pro bono locally, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee developed the Pro Bono Pledge. This Pledge has two purposes: to recognize and celebrate law firms and corporations that already do pro bono work; and to encourage others to increase their pro bono participation.

Nearly 4 million Illinoisans live at or below the federal poverty level. In the Eleventh Circuit there are 37, 275 people living below the poverty line. Despite this drastic need and the limited resources, legal aid funding has been cut by twenty percent at the state level and fifteen percent at the Federal level with proposed cuts of at least forty percent, in the current Federal Budget proposal. The local legal service providers Land of Lincoln which serves Ford and Logan Counties and Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. which provide civil legal services to the poor in the Eleventh Circuit are not able to meet the demand for legal services for the poor. Thus, pro bono attorneys are essential in ensuring that all individuals receive access to justice in the Eleventh Circuit.

A copy of the Eleventh Circuit Pro Bono Pledge and a Frequently Asked Questions Sheet are attached. You can also find more information and complete the Pledge on line at www.pili.org/pro-bono/judicial-circuit-committees/11thcircuit/eleventh-judicial-circuit-pro-bono-pledge.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thank you for your consideration.

Todd Miller

Co-Chairperson

Eleventh Circuit Pro Bono Committee

Carrie Haas

Co-Chairperson

Eleventh Circuit Pro Bono Committee