

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2.106-9/08*

IN RE: PRO BONO SERVICE

_____:

The Florida Supreme Court has held that "every lawyer...who is a member of The Florida Bar has an obligation to represent the poor when called upon by the courts and that each lawyer has agreed to that commitment when admitted to practice law in this state," In re Amendments to Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, 573 So.2d 800, 806 (Fla. 1990). The Supreme Court approved a modification of recommendation No. 24 of The Florida Bar/Florida Bar Foundation Joint Commission on the Delivery of Legal Services to the Indigent in Florida which requires each circuit to develop a plan to provide pro bono legal services to the circuit's indigent population, see In re Amendments to Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, 598 So.2d 41 (Fla. 1992). The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. has served the poor for over thirty years and presently has the expertise and resources to administer this circuit's pro bono plan. The chief judge of each judicial circuit is mandated to appoint and convene a circuit pro bono committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

GOAL

1. Each member of the Florida Bar who practices in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit should perform pro bono service by providing free legal service to the poor (125% of federal poverty income level standard) through the circuit's pro bono program which shall be administered by the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.
2. A lawyer's obligation to provide pro bono legal services to the poor may be fulfilled by any of the methods set forth in the pro bono rules.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY

3. The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. is designated as the administrative agency to implement this circuit's pro bono plan.
4. The administrative agency shall
 - a. provide intake and referral of clients;
 - b. provide malpractice insurance and litigation costs;
 - c. establish quality control procedures;
 - d. provide training and staff support for pro bono attorneys; and
 - e. undertake other responsibilities as directed by the circuit's pro bono committee to

implement the circuit's pro bono plan.

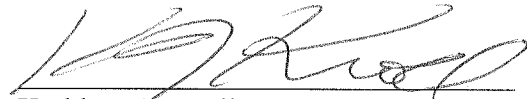
5. The administrative agency shall submit to the circuit pro bono committee, by December 31st of each year, an annual report with recommendations to update the plan.
6. The administrative agency shall prepare a report by December 31st of each year listing each attorney who rendered pro bono service that year, the attorney's bar number, and the nature and extent of the attorney's service. This report shall be provided to the chief judge and to the circuit pro bono committee.

CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEE

7. A circuit pro bono committee shall be established to plan, develop, prepare in written form, coordinate and establish the circuit's voluntary pro bono plan. The committee shall discharge all additional responsibilities imposed by the pro bono rules.
8. The circuit pro bono committee shall consist of the following:
 - a. **Three (3) representatives recruited from and selected by the Palm Beach County Bar Association one being a member of the North County Section, one being a member of the Young Lawyers Section and one being a member-at-large.**
 - b. One (1) representative recruited from and selected by the South County Bar Association.
 - c. One (1) representative from and selected by the F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr., Bar Association.
 - d. One (1) representative from and selected by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers (Palm Beach County Chapter)
 - e. One (1) representative from and selected by the Hispanic Bar Association of Palm Beach County.
 - f. One (1) representative from and selected by the Palm Beach County Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.
 - g. **One (1) representative from and selected by the Palm Beach County Justice Association.**
 - h. One (1) public member selected by the other members of the circuit pro bono committee.
 - i. One (1) client eligible member selected by the other members of the circuit pro bono committee, and
 - j. The executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.
 - k. The Legal Aid Society's pro bono coordinator.

- l. One (1) representative from Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc.
 - m. The chief judge or a judge designated by the chief judge.
9. **Any other organized local bar association can petition the circuit pro bono committee for inclusion as a representative to the committee.**
10. The circuit pro bono committee shall meet at least once a year to review and, if necessary, revise the circuit's plan. Further, the committee shall monitor the manner in which the administrative agency is implementing the plan consistent with the policies and procedures established by the committee.
11. The chief judge shall provide The Florida Supreme Court with a copy of the circuit's plan together with any revisions and a copy of the administrative agency's annual report.

DONE and **SIGNED** in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this
29 day of September, 2008.



Kathleen J. Kroll
Chief Judge

* supersedes admin. order no. 2.030-12/96