

FOURTEENTH Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

Chair:

Thomas A. Blade
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Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
Pro Bono Committee
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Michelle Fitzsimmons
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Benjamin Samuelson
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Dear Law Firm or Corporate Legal Department Leader:

As the chair of the Fourteenth 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 Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, a collaborative effort with the Public Interest Law Initiative and Prairie State Legal Services. 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.

In an effort to recognize and encourage pro bono locally, the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee has developed the enclosed 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 Fourteenth 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,

Thomas A. Blade
Chair, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

Enclosures

P.S. Join us for the Volunteer Lawyers Courthouse Project training on Friday, October 24th. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

