

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT


GENERAL ORDER GOVERNING THE CIRCUIT PRO BONO PROGRAM
EFFECTIVE JUNE 6, 2017

O R D E R:

1. It is ORDERED that matters selected by the Court as eligible for pro bono representation shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this General Order.
2. The purpose of the program is to assist the Court in its consideration of complex and non-frivolous appeals by providing pro bono counsel to pro se litigants.
3. Pro Bono Panel members will, at the Court's invitation, represent pro se litigants in civil appeals that, for example, present issues of first impression or complex issues of law or fact, or raise potentially meritorious claims warranting further briefing and/or oral argument.
4. A judicial officer may consider the appointment of pro bono counsel in a civil appeal for the following purposes: (1) an appointment for all proceedings before the Fifth Circuit, or (2) a specific purpose appointment, such as solely for the purpose of oral argument.
5. Oral argument in cases with pro bono appointments is not guaranteed.
6. Within 14 days of the Order Appointing Pro Bono Counsel, the attorney must notify the Court if the attorney requests removal from the case due to a conflict or other good cause shown.
7. Attorneys interested in joining the Pro Bono Panel should send the following to the Circuit Mediation and Judicial Support Office: (1) a cover letter that addresses appellate experience, and whether counsel prefers, or does not prefer, specific subject-matter areas; (2) a resume; (3) a writing sample, preferably an appellate brief or briefing of a substantive motion; and (4) a certification that the attorney is a member in good standing of the Fifth Circuit Bar.
8. At the conclusion of the representation, Pro Bono Counsel may file an ex parte motion for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred, which motion shall be decided by the panel that decided the case. Reimbursable expenses may in no event exceed those allowable in Criminal Justice Act appointments. Any such recovery of expenses shall not be considered a fee for services. Travel expenses must be authorized in advance by the Circuit Mediation and Judicial Support Office.

June 6, 2017




Carl E. Stewart
Chief Judge

A True Copy
Certified order issued Jun 06, 2017


Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit