

NOTICE TO THE BAR

PRO BONO REPRESENTATION IN FEDERAL COURT

The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey is seeking law firms to volunteer for the Court's Pro Bono program. For over one hundred years, the district courts have relied upon local attorneys to volunteer their time on cases few attorneys would otherwise accept. A majority of the cases are constitutional, arising under federal and state civil rights acts, and brought by indigent, incarcerated litigants. The assigned judges in these cases will determine whether appointment of counsel is appropriate. The legal issues commonly involve the Fourteenth, Fifth, Fourth and Eighth, and sometimes the First Amendments to the United States Constitution.

Law firms are reimbursed for reasonable and necessary litigation expenses, such as subpoena fees, witness fees, attendance fees for stenographers, deposition transcripts, expert fees, requests for production of records, and, on a showing of good cause, for other necessary expenses. Appointed attorneys may apply to the presiding Judge or Magistrate Judge during the litigation or within a reasonable period thereafter for reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the litigation.

What does this mean to you? Each appointment holds many reasons for acceptance. For the new lawyer and young associate just beginning a career, every case provides the opportunity to appear in court and to develop the skills necessary to be a successful attorney; for the seasoned attorney, every case provides the opportunity to make continued contributions to our system of justice.

We encourage your law firm to consider accepting a pro bono representation. Full details can be found on our website at www.njd.uscourts.gov and in Appendix H of the Local Civil Rules. To volunteer or to request more information, please contact John Basilone at (609) 989-2333.