

INFORMATION FOR PETITIONERS FOR PRO BONO PRACTICE BY OUT-OF-STATE LAWYER

Procedure

The petition must be reviewed by the Administrative Committee and approved by the State Bar Council. The committee and the council meet quarterly in January, April, July, and October of each year. The dates of the meetings are posted on the home page of the NC State Bar website.

Instructions for Completing and Filing Petition

1. Complete the appropriate petition and have the petition notarized.
2. Attach certificate(s) of good standing from each jurisdiction in which you are licensed to practice law.
3. Identify an active North Carolina lawyer in good standing at a supporting nonprofit legal services corporation to serve as a supervisor. The North Carolina responsible lawyer must attach a statement in which the lawyer agrees to supervise the petitioner in the provision of pro bono legal services for indigent persons. See [the Pro Bono Supervision Statement](#).
3. Mail the petition and any supporting documents to:

NC State Bar
Membership Department
P.O. Box 26088
Raleigh, NC 27611

Materials should be submitted at least thirty days prior to the State Bar Council meeting at which you want your petition to be considered. Keep a copy of your petition for your records. If your petition is received 30 days prior to the meeting you will receive confirmation that your petition was received by the NC State Bar. If you list an e-mail address on your petition you may receive correspondence via e-mail. Please contact the Membership Department at (919) 828-4620 if you do not receive confirmation.

4. After the quarterly meeting of the State Bar Council, if your petition is granted by the council, an order will be mailed to the address you provided on the petition.

Additional information about pro bono practice status can be found at www.ncequalaccesstojustice.org/pro-bono including Frequently Asked Questions about the program and opportunities to volunteer.

Guidelines for In-Court Practice

A lawyer who has been granted Pro Bono Practice Status pursuant to either 27 N.C.A.C. 1D, Rule .0905(b)(3), *Pro Bono Practice by Out of State Lawyers*, or 27 N.C.A.C. 1D, Rule .0901(b)(3), *Emeritus Pro Bono Status*, may engage in the following activities under the supervision of an active member of the North Carolina State Bar:

- (a) A lawyer with Pro Bono Practice Status may give advice to a client on matters of North Carolina law provided (1) the lawyer gives a clear prior explanation to the client that the lawyer's practice in North Carolina is limited to pro bono matters and (2) the supervising lawyer has determined that the pro bono lawyer is qualified to render legal advice in the subject area involved.

(b) A lawyer with Pro Bono Practice Status may represent an eligible person in any proceeding before a federal, state, or local tribunal, including an administrative agency, if notice of pro bono status is given to the tribunal or agency by the pro bono lawyer and the supervising lawyer approved the representation. A statement advising the tribunal or agency of the lawyer's Pro Bono Practice Status shall be filed with the tribunal and made a part of the record in the case. The State Bar Council's Order granting Pro Bono Practice Status may be used for this purpose.

(c) The pro bono lawyer's appearance before a tribunal or agency shall be subject to any limitations imposed by the tribunal or agency.

(d) In all cases under this rule in which an lawyer with Pro Bono Practice Status is permitted to appear before a tribunal or agency, subject to any limitations imposed by the tribunal, the lawyer may engage in all activities appropriate to the representation of the client, including, without limitation, selection of and argument to the jury, examination and cross-examination of witnesses, motions and arguments thereon, and giving notice of appeal.

Statutory Authority: G.S.84-16; G.S. 84-7.1



THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR

PETITION FOR PRO BONO PRACTICE BY OUT-OF-STATE LAWYER

For consideration by the NC State Bar Council, the out-of-state lawyer must file a completed petition, as required by 27 N.C.A.C. 1D, Rule .0905, thirty (30) days prior to the quarterly meeting of the Council at which the petition will be heard.

Instructions to Petitioner

Complete and return the petition to the North Carolina State Bar, Membership Department, P.O. Box 26088, Raleigh, NC 27611. Attach certificate(s) of good standing from each jurisdiction in which you are licensed to practice law. The responsible North Carolina licensed lawyer must attach a statement in which the lawyer agrees to supervise the petitioner in the provision of pro bono legal services for indigent persons.

If the space for any answer is insufficient, complete your answer on a separate sheet and attach it to the petition. **PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT YOUR ANSWERS LEGIBLY.**

Petition and Affidavit

1. Petitioner:

(a) Full name _____

(b) Current Address

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(c) Work # _____ Home/Cell # _____

(d) E-Mail address _____

Please monitor your e-mail for correspondence relating to this petition.

(e) Have you ever been known by any other name or surname (include any name prior to marriage)?
If so, list all other names and the dates and locations where such names were used.

(f) Date of birth _____ Birthplace _____

2. Your current or most recent employment:

Employer _____

Supervisor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail address _____

From (M/Y) _____ To (M/Y) _____

Position(s) held _____

3. North Carolina State Bar member (Responsible Lawyer)* who is employed by a nonprofit corporation qualified to render legal services pursuant to G.S. 84-5.1 and who has agreed to supervise the petitioner:

Name _____

N.C. Bar # _____

Employer _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail address _____

***The responsible lawyer must attach a statement in which the lawyer agrees to supervise the petitioner in the provision of pro bono legal services to indigent persons.**

4. List all jurisdictions* in which you are or were licensed to practice law. Provide date of licensure, license number and status (i.e. active, inactive, suspended, etc.) for each jurisdiction.

***Include certificate(s) of good standing from each jurisdiction.**

5. Have you been disbarred, suspended from practice, reprimanded, censured, or otherwise disciplined or disqualified (including the revocation of a pro hac vice admission, or suspension because of disability or failure to comply with a requirement of membership such as paying dues or completing CLE)* by a licensing agency, court, or professional organization for conduct as a lawyer, public or private?
_____ If so, state the following:

(a) Type of discipline, suspension, or disqualification:

(b) Date of discipline, suspension, or disqualification:

(c) Name/address of person or body with possession of the record:

(d) Reason(s) for the discipline, suspension, or disqualification:

***Attach copies of all documents relating to such discipline, suspension, or disqualification including any order of discipline or disqualification.**

6. Have you been convicted of any violations of law (include all violations other than minor traffic infractions) or currently have charges pending against you? _____ If so, provide the following information:

(a) Name and location of the tribunal:

(b) Date, case number, and caption of the pleadings: _____

(c) The nature of the proceeding:

(d) Disposition:

(e) Location of the record relating to the proceeding: _____

7. State the reason you desire to provide legal services without charge to indigent persons in North Carolina:

8. By executing this petition, you acknowledge that you 1) are submitting to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the North Carolina State Bar and will be governed by the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct in regard to any law practice authorized by the council in consequence of the petition; and 2) consent to a criminal background check for the limited purpose of review for approval of this petition.

Signature Date

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
_____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

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“As our Supreme Court commemorates its 200th anniversary, it is a wonderful opportunity to think about how far our courts have come in our effort to be transparent, fair, and accessible to every North Carolinian. As we acknowledge that progress, we must continue to remove those still-existing barriers that make it difficult, or even impossible, for our friends and neighbors to access our state courts. ”

About

In November 2005, Chief Justice I. Beverly Lake, by [order of the Supreme Court of North Carolina](#), established the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission, making North Carolina the 19th state to establish such an entity.

A primary function of the Commission is to convene stakeholders to increase access to justice. Chaired by Richard Dietz, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, the Commission's 15 members include representatives from: the judicial, legislative, and executive branches; North Carolina State Bar and voluntary legal associations; legal aid organizations; law schools; and the philanthropic and business communities.

In addition to its role as a convener, the Commission works on a variety of strategies to increase access to justice in North Carolina: the development of materials and resources to support North Carolinians with civil legal needs who do not have access to attorneys in navigating the court system; the coordination of legislative strategy, education, and communications around funding for civil legal aid; the work of the North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center, which seeks to increase access to justice through encouraging and facilitating pro bono legal service among North Carolina attorneys; and the assembly of collaborative, issue-based working groups to evaluate and author policy reforms to expand the legal access and remedies available to low income North Carolinians.

[Learn more about the commission](#)

The Commission Does Not Make Legal Referrals Nor Provide Legal Advice.

Why We Exist

In 2018, more than 2 million North Carolinians were eligible for the services of legal aid providers (i.e. with income at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level). Within this low-income population, 71% of families will experience at least one civil legal problem in a given year. Nevertheless, a staggering 86% of these legal needs will go unmet because of limited resources for civil legal aid providers. There is only one legal aid attorney for every 8,000 North Carolinians eligible for legal services, compared to one private lawyer for every 367 North Carolina residents.

Civil legal problems impact the most basic human needs: housing, health care, safety, economic stability, and family structure, among others. Legal aid providers help meet these fundamental needs through providing expert representation in the areas of domestic violence protection, divorce, child custody, housing, consumer protection, employment, veterans' benefits, and health.

How Can You Help?

Donate Money

Please consider a financial contribution to one of North Carolina's legal aid providers. A [list of providers can be found here](#).

Volunteer

The North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 6.1 encourages attorneys to provide at least fifty hours of pro bono legal services each year, without fee or expectation of fee. As more than half of those who ask for civil legal assistance are turned away each year because of lack of capacity, attorney volunteers are crucial to ensure access to justice for all in our state, regardless of ability to pay. If you are an attorney and would like to volunteer, please [visit ncprobono.org to view pro bono opportunities](#).

Staff and Members

[Equal Access to Justice](#)

[Commission Staff](#)

Meet the Equal Access to Justice Commission team.

[Equal Access to Justice Commission Members](#)

See the members of the Equal Access to Justice Commission.

Additional Resources

[North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center](#)

To increase pro bono participation statewide.

[About Civil Legal Aid](#)

Information about civil legal service providers in North Carolina.

[North Carolina Faith and Justice Alliance](#)

A coalition of faith-based groups and legal practitioners formed to address unmet legal needs of low-income North Carolinians.

Latest News

May 16, 2023 Press Release

N.C. Pro Bono Resource Center Announces 2022 Pro Bono Honor Society Inductees

The NCPBRC is proud to announce the induction of 552 attorneys into the 2022 North Carolina Attorney Pro Bono Society and 27 paralegals.



March 29, 2023 Press Release

All Things Judicial Highlights the Wake County Legal Support Center

Episode explains the Center's creation and operation and includes a tour of the Center with Judge Dunston.



January 24, 2023 General News

Legal Support Center Opens at Wake County Courthouse

The Center is available to help people better understand our legal system.

[See all news stories](#)

Contact

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