

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Delaware Access to Justice Commission Announces The Pro Bono Challenge.

The Delaware Access to Justice Commission's Subcommittee on Promoting Greater Private Sector Representation of Underserved Litigants ("the Pro Bono Subcommittee") today announced the Pro Bono Challenge.

The Pro Bono Challenge asks each Delaware attorney to dedicate at least 1% of their billable hours to pro bono service in direct representation of poor people in 2019. Attorneys who do not account for their time with billable hours can meet the Challenge by dedicating 1% of their working days to pro bono service. The Pro Bono Challenge is voluntary. The Pro Bono Subcommittee hopes the legal community will embrace this effort as a way to give back, assist those in need and show the state that our profession steps up when needed.

The Delaware Supreme Court created the Access to Justice Commission in 2014 "to identify the critical needs related to access to justice in Delaware and to develop realistic and cost effective solutions to meet those needs." To increase the representation of those who cannot afford an attorney, the Pro Bono Subcommittee recommended the creation of a pro bono challenge for attorneys to meet a clear, measurable and collective pro bono target.

At the beginning of 2020, participants will be asked if they met the Pro Bono Challenge. Attorneys who meet the Challenge will be recognized for their efforts.

"Our legal aid organizations continue to do a tremendous job, but they have the capacity to meet only one-eighth of the civil legal services needed by poor people in Delaware. Pro bono service from members of the Delaware bar is a critical component of addressing this 'justice gap.' We hope the Pro Bono Challenge will help bridge this gap," said Mary MaloneyHuss, Co-Chair of the Commission and Co-Chair of the Pro Bono Subcommittee.

Attorneys who wish to volunteer for the Pro Bono Challenge can sign up at: <https://courts.delaware.gov/probonochallenge.aspx>.

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