

**US DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON**

PRO BONO REPRESENTATION PROGRAM REVISED PROCEDURES

The District of Oregon has revised its procedures to obtain pro bono counsel in an effort to provide better judicial access for *pro se* litigants. Detailed information, including the Pro Bono Representation Program procedures, and associated forms, are located at: <http://ord.uscourts.gov>.

The court maintains a list of law firms and individual lawyers willing to review cases filed by *pro se* litigants for possible pro bono representation. Under the new procedures, the court may appoint volunteer counsel for the limited purpose of reviewing a plaintiff's claims, for a specific purpose such as mediation or settlement, or for all purposes. The appointed attorney / law firm will then be added to the court's docket as counsel of record for that case.

The appointed attorney / law firm shall have 12 days from the entry of the Order Appointing Pro Bono Counsel in which to inform the court of a conflict of interest. If no conflict exists, then counsel appointed for the limited purpose of reviewing claims shall have another 30 days (for a total of 42 days) to review the court file, conduct an appropriate investigation of the plaintiff's claims, and advise the court whether he or she accepts or declines further representation. The court expects appointed counsel to accept representation if the plaintiff has a factual and legal basis to prevail on any claim. If the appointed counsel declines representation, then he or she will be withdrawn as counsel of record for that case, and the plaintiff will proceed without counsel.

The amount of reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses available from the Attorney Admission Fund for each case has been increased from \$100 to \$3,000.

In addition to individual attorneys, the following law firms have agreed to these new procedures, and will accept one to two pro bono cases per year:

Ball Janik, LLP
Barran Liebman, LLP
Lane Powell, PC
Lindsey Hart Neil & Wagner, LLP
Miller Nash, LLP
Stoel Rives, LLP
Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting & Schlachter, PC
Sussman Shank, LLP
Tonkon Torp, LLP
Vangelisti Kocher, LLP

Attorneys or law firms wishing to be added to the Pro Bono Representation Panel should contact Nicole Munoz, Pro Bono Administrator, at (503) 326-8014, or via e-mail at: Nicole_Munoz@ord.uscourts.gov.