



**United States District Court  
Southern District Of New York**

**Laura Taylor Swain**  
*Chief Judge*

**Daniel Ortiz**  
*Acting Clerk of Court*

**COURT NOTICE TO THE BAR**

July 1, 2024

**CONTACT:**

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**SDNY Seeks Pro Bono Attorneys**

The Southern District of New York seeks the assistance of attorneys to appear pro bono on behalf of indigent litigants in civil cases. Many of these cases implicate constitutional rights – from employment discrimination to conditions of confinement and use of force – and the protection of livelihoods. A judge’s request for pro bono counsel is a direct call to the legal community at a critical moment in a case: at least one claim has been deemed potentially meritorious, and the challenges of litigation lie ahead. Yet the litigant, usually a plaintiff with important constitutional and civil or economic rights at stake, does not have the means to hire an attorney. The need may be for full scope representation, or representation for a more limited purpose – mediation, settlement, discovery, or dispositive motion practice.

The Southern District of New York thanks the tremendous support the SDNY bar has shown for pro bono work in recent years and encourages all lawyers to consider expanding their practice to include regular pro bono representation. Connecting indigent litigants with high quality representation has been a priority of the legal profession since its inception. Dozens of attorneys each year carry out this proud tradition by representing litigants pro bono, ensuring that a litigant’s inability to hire an attorney does not limit their access to a fair outcome.

To assist attorneys interested in exploring pro bono opportunities, the Court publishes a newsletter summarizing the cases requiring counsel. Attorneys appearing pro bono may receive free PACER access for the case and reimbursement for costs up to \$5,000. Mentorship is available from the Federal Bar Council Advisory Panel on civil rights.

To sign-up to receive the newsletter concerning pending pro bono opportunities, send an email to [probono@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:probono@nysd.uscourts.gov). As of July 1, 2024, attorneys must be registered in the court’s ECF system to receive the newsletter.

To learn more about the steps involved in providing pro bono representation, including new filing requirements, go to [nysd.uscourts.gov/attorney/probono](https://nysd.uscourts.gov/attorney/probono).

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