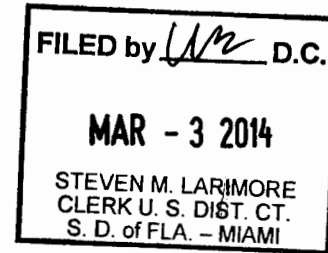


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2014-14

IN RE: MODIFICATION OF *PRO SE*
REPRESENTATION BY ATTORNEYS IN
CIVIL CASES



Pursuant to Administrative Order 93-106, this Court established the Volunteer Lawyers' Project, a program designed to obtain *pro bono* counsel for *pro se* litigants, and to provide various support services to them. In the last few years, the Court has studied the different avenues to increase the number of attorneys, who would actually represent the *pro se* litigants.

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Judges of this District, by a substantial majority, the Court decided that the best way to increase the representation by attorneys would be to decentralize the review of cases from the Volunteer Lawyers' Project to the chambers of individual judges assigned to the particular *pro se* cases. The Court's intention is to *expand* its resources by leveraging technology to directly obtain *pro bono* counsel rather than relying upon the staff of the Volunteer Lawyers' Project. The Court remains fully committed to the principles of insuring "equal justice under the law" and intends to continue carrying out that principle in the most efficient means possible. The Court strongly encourages members of its Bar to continue providing *pro bono* representation to the less fortunate in the future. In turn, the Court will insure that *pro bono* opportunities are publicized and that adequate funds are available to support volunteer attorneys through the reimbursement of litigation expenses for

indigent litigants consistent with the Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol 13, Chap. 12, Section 1220(f). The Court also is committed to partnering with various local bar associations, who already maintain and administer their own *pro bono* programs. Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that from the effective date of this Order, the Volunteer Lawyers' Project shall cease any further operations, except for those activities necessary to wind up and close down its operations;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Volunteer Lawyers' Project Committee is discharged of any further responsibilities. In doing so, the Court wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Committee members for their time, dedication, and support of this project;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court will notify the few attorneys, who are currently representing litigants from the list provided by the staff of the Volunteer Lawyers' Project. The Court shall insure the continued support that the attorneys may need as to litigation expenses, access to the revolving loan fund, and continuation of legal malpractice coverage during their representation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Director of the Volunteer Lawyers' Project shall submit to the Clerk of Court a final accounting and dissolution plan that insures the prompt and full payment of any debts or obligations incurred by the Volunteer Lawyers' Project. Any remaining funds will either be returned to the Federal Bench and Bar Fund as permitted by Judiciary Policy or otherwise distributed with this Court's approval to support *pro bono* programs operating in this District.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that from the effective date of this order, the attorney renewal fee of \$25 established by Administrative Order 2012-4 is suspended, and the Clerk of Court shall cease collecting any further renewal fees pending further order of the Court. Regular attorney admission fees and *pro hac vice* fees are unaffected by this order.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Florida this 3rd day of March, 2014.



FEDERICO A. MORENO
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies provided to:

Honorable Ed Carnes, Chief Judge, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals
All Southern District and Magistrate Judges
James P. Gerstenlauer, Circuit Executive, Eleventh Circuit
Randall Berg, Director, Florida Justice Institute
Steven M. Larimore, Court Administrator · Clerk of Court
All members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Rules and Procedures
Library
Daily Business Review