

Pro Bono Opportunities

Allison Barnum, Esq., Pro Bono Manager 152 North Third Street, 3rd Floor, San Jose, CA 95112
Phone: 408.280.2412 Fax: 408.484.1083 Email: allison.barnum@lawfoundation.org

FEDERAL PRO SE PROGRAM **Public Interest Law Firm**

Represent Pro Se Litigants in Federal Court

The Law Foundation's Federal Pro Se Program partners with the Court to provide attorneys with the opportunity to represent "pro se" or "in pro per" litigants at the United States District Court in San Jose. Pro bono representation through this Program is a great way for attorneys to gain experience in federal court while increasing access to justice and enhancing litigants' chances of success.

Full Scope and Limited Scope Representation

The Law Foundation seeks pro bono counsel in a variety of cases for both full scope and limited scope representation. Full Scope representation is for all purposes during the duration of a case. Limited Scope representation is for a specified purpose, such as a settlement conference, a deposition, or arguing a dispositive motion. If appointed in a limited scope case, the Court will issue an order ending the appointment when the specified purpose is concluded.

How Does it Work?

The Law Foundation circulates opportunities by email to volunteer attorneys who have agreed to be on our pro bono panel. The email will provide a brief synopsis of the case, procedural posture, and will specify whether the request is for full scope or limited scope representation. As a panelist, you simply let the Program know you are interested in taking a case and we provide you with any additional information needed to run a conflict check. If there are no conflicts, the Program informs the Court that pro bono counsel has been identified, and the Court will issue an Order of Appointment.

Less Experienced Lawyers are Encouraged to Participate

The Court strongly encourages less experienced lawyers to actively participate in these pro bono opportunities, including through the presentation of arguments and examination of witnesses at motion hearings and trial. At the same time, the Program requires that a Partner or Associate with significant federal court experience be assigned to each case.

What Types of Cases are Available?

Generally, two types of cases are circulated for pro bono appointment. First, are civil cases in all subject matter areas, where the Program has met with the litigant and supported the litigant's motion requesting appointment of counsel. Second, are prisoner cases where the litigant has successfully opposed a summary judgment motion and the case is ready for trial, or the Court has determined pro bono counsel is warranted for another purpose.