

## **NORTHERN KENTUCKY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS, INC.**

### **Your time and expertise are needed to continue providing pro bono clients legal representation.**

Please review the available programs and submit a volunteer application form:

Contact: [lguzzino@lablaw.org](mailto:lguzzino@lablaw.org)

(859) 431-8200, ext. 1228

### **What kind of cases can I expect to be referred?**

- The NKVL handles civil matters only. Referral areas include Family Law, Elder Law, Housing Law, Consumer Law, Wills and Probate, Employment Law and Immigration.

### **How does the pro bono panel work?**

- Potential clients are screened to determine income eligibility and to assure that the case has legal merit. The case is then matched with a volunteer attorney according to his/her expressed area of interest. NKVL sends written confirmation of the referral to the attorney and client. Follow up and resources are provided by NKVL until the case is closed.

### **What are the benefits of being on the pro bono panel?**

- NKVL provides an organized distribution of cases and allows lawyers to fulfill their ethical pro bono obligation.
- Affords new practitioners an opportunity to expand and sharpen their legal skills through “hands on” experience.
- CLE training is offered for free or at a reduced fee to NKVL volunteers.
- Professional liability insurance is provided.
- Reimbursement is available for reasonable and necessary litigation expenses.
- Helps promote a more favorable image of the Bar.
- Personal and professional satisfaction.

### **How much paperwork to I have to fill out?**

- NKVL uses a simple case reporting system.
- The initial disposition form includes a retainer agreement which notifies the NKVL office whether the client has followed through on the referral. This form is to be returned after the initial interview.
- The status of a pending case is summarized on the case update forms that NKVL forwards periodically until the case is concluded.

- When the case is closed, the attorney returns the closing and reimbursement form to the office. Attorneys should be careful to note the number of hours devoted to the case.

**What kinds of problems should I inform NKVL about?**

- Loss of financial eligibility after referral. Situations change and some clients may become ineligible for no-cost service after being accepted or referred. Also, cases that do not originally appear fee generating may become so upon closer investigation.
- Pro Bono clients returning for additional services. Attorneys should note that Pro Bono clients are told that a pro bono referral is only for help with the problems specified in the referral letter to the client. If the attorney is interested in handling a new case or different problem for the client, the attorney or the client should contact the office so that the new case(s) can be opened and the client's financial eligibility rechecked.
- Appeals/Post Decree matters. Attorneys are not obligated to represent clients in an appeal or post decree matter.
- Please notify the NKVL if you suspect your client appears ineligible for free lawyer assistance. We will then investigate and if appropriate, notify both attorney and client of the ineligibility, and that the client is free to seek representation at an agreed fee from the pro bono referred attorney or another attorney of choice. The pro bono attorney may then affect withdrawal if necessary, as long as ethical considerations are satisfied.

**You should feel free to call the office any time you have questions or comments about a pro bono referred client.**

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