

United States District Court

Eastern District of Missouri
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Gregory J. Linhares
Clerk of Court

314-244-7890

February 27, 2019

U.S. DISTRICT COURT ANNOUNCES ACCESS TO JUSTICE EFFORT TO INCREASE SERVICE TO INDIGENT AND SELF-REPRESENTED CIVIL LITIGANTS; CHALLENGES ATTORNEYS TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICE

Improved Intake Services for Self-Represented Litigants, Training Opportunity for Pro Bono Attorneys, and Increase in Pro Bono Attorney Reimbursement Are Among the New Efforts

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri announced several initiatives today, all designed to provide better assistance and improved understanding of process to indigent and self-represented persons in civil cases. The initiatives include providing better compensation and improved training to attorneys appointed to cases involving self-represented indigent persons, as well as a new program to help self-represented indigent persons with initial case review and filing processes. Parts of the plan are effective immediately; others will be implemented soon.

HIGHER PRO BONO ATTORNEY REIMBURSEMENT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

In order to encourage a greater number of attorneys to represent indigent litigants, and recognizing the growing complexity of cases involving indigent and self-represented litigants, the Court has significantly increased its reimbursement to attorneys who handle these cases.

- Judge-approved attorney fees in district court cases are increased from \$2,500 to \$5,000;
- Judge-approved attorney expenses in district court cases are increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (limit can be exceeded with additional approvals);
- Attorneys who represent parties as limited scope counsel in mediations are eligible for reimbursement in the same way as attorneys in other appointed cases;
- Judge-approved attorney expenses in bankruptcy cases are increased from \$500 to \$1,000;
- Details on attorney reimbursement can be found at:

<https://www.moed.uscourts.gov/appointed-counsel-fees-and-expenses>

PRO BONO COUNSEL CLE APRIL 25; NEW INTAKE ASSISTANCE IN JUNE

The Court will host a free CLE April 25, 2019. The CLE will cover the role of pro bono limited scope counsel at both intake and mediation, the role of pro bono appointed counsel in civil cases generally, and the ethics of pro bono representation. A reception with the Court will be held afterward. Training information will be issued shortly.

Beginning in June, the U.S. District Court will partner with the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) to assist self-represented litigants with initial filing form completion and initial case review. BAMSL will recruit and manage a group of volunteer attorneys to help lead this effort.

Attorneys interested in serving as limited scope counsel to self-represented litigants for initial case review or for mediation; or as assigned counsel in pro bono cases, please contact the Clerk of Court at: greg_linhares@moed.uscourts.gov or at (314) 244-7890.