

To: All Public Sector Attorneys in the State of Nevada
From: Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice James W. Hardesty, Justice Michael L. Douglas, and Nevada Attorney General Adam P. Laxalt
Re: Encouraging Public Attorneys to increase participation in pro bono legal services
Date: October 27, 2015

In recognition of National Pro Bono Week , which we will be celebrating between October 25-31, 2015, the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission and the Nevada Attorney General's Office want to encourage and challenge all public sector attorneys to participate in providing pro bono legal services to those less fortunate. The contribution of your skills, talents, resources, and time can and will make an important difference in our communities throughout our State.

While there are some limitations on the type of clients and cases that a public sector attorney may handle on behalf of a pro bono client, there are also a great number of opportunities for public attorneys to provide legal services to those desperately in need of legal assistance that are both authorized by the Nevada Legislature and encouraged by the Rules of Professional Conduct.

There are several organizations that can assist public sector attorneys to connect with clients in need of legal assistance such as Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans, Washoe Legal Services, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Southern Nevada Senior Law Program, Nevada Legal Services and the Attorney General's Office of Military Legal Assistance. Please take the time to contact one of these organizations to learn more about how your services will help a client in need. In addition, you might consult the State Bar's website for more information about pro bono legal services.

The Attorney General's Office has recently clarified its office policy to make clear that providing pro bono legal services to those less fortunate is not only acceptable, but is strongly encouraged. Similarly, we would urge all public attorneys around the State of Nevada to consider how they can participate in providing pro bono legal services wherever and whenever possible.