



NEWS FROM:
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Public Defender Enlisting Participants for Pro Bono Program Starting 1/15
Private Attorneys to Gain Free Training, Trial Experience, Pro Bono Hours

Jacksonville, FL: In conjunction with the Jacksonville Bar Association (JBA), the Office of Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk is launching a new program designed to provide private attorneys with legal education and help low income people attain necessary legal services. It is called ***Public Defender Pro Bono Opportunities*** and it kicks off with a half-day training session on Friday, January 15th.

Those interested in participating are younger attorneys seeking criminal law and trial experience, lawyers looking to satisfy the Florida Bar with aspirational Pro Bono hours and private law firm associates who want diversified legal competencies. Enrollment for the initial training session of ***Public Defender Pro Bono Opportunities*** on January 15th has begun and there is limited space available to accommodate additional participants.

“*Public Defender Pro Bono Opportunities* is a unique program to the Fourth Circuit and it has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of those less fortunate people in desperate need of legal services,” said Shirk. “We join the Jacksonville Bar Association in urging local attorneys to participate in this worthwhile exercise.”

Assistant Public Defenders, Director Cynthia Hunold and Division Chief Kelly Naik are coordinating the program. The introductory training begins at 11 a.m. on January 15th, includes presentations by the coordination team, an approved Continuing Legal Education video, and networking opportunities. Lunch will be provided and the session will last until approximately 5 p.m. Once enrolled, participants will be designated as *Special Assistant Public Defenders (SAPDs)* and assigned one misdemeanor case to handle with appropriate supervision. Those interested in participating are urged to contact Ms. Hunold at cch@pd4.coj.net or Ms. Naik at ken@pd4.coj.net no later than noon on Wednesday January 13th to secure space.

“There is no shortage of misdemeanor cases coming through our office,” said Director Hunold. “We will provide thorough training in managing these cases; the SAPD’s will gain valuable legal experience and a low-income client receives his or her rightful access to justice.”

Legal Community Event Announcement: **Public Defender Pro Bono Opportunities**

Who: Fourth Circuit Public Defender's Office

What: Introductory Training Session for *Public Defender Pro Bono Opportunities*

Where: P.D. Office 3rd Floor Conference Room, 25 N. Market St., Jacksonville

When: 11 a.m., Friday, January 15th

Notes: Enrollment deadline: January 13th, please contact Cynthia Hunold cch@pd4.coj.net or Kelly Naik at ken@pd4.coj.net to enroll in the program and receive additional information.