

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ALASKA

James M. Fitzgerald U.S. Courthouse
222 West 7th Avenue, Box 33
Anchorage, AK 99513

TIMOTHY M. BURGESS
Chief United States District Judge



(907) 677-6203

June 25, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

Access to legal services is fundamental to our system of justice. However, for many Alaskans it all too often is unaffordable and therefore unavailable. According to the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, approximately half of the requests it receives for legal assistance are turned away due to the limited number of attorneys available to handle those requests.


In response to this concern, we wanted to make you aware of two upcoming opportunities. First, at the Federal Bar Association's Alaska Chapter Convention on August 6, 2019, there will be a presentation on The Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent (POWER) Act, Pub. L. No. 115-237. This new federal law seeks to increase access to legal services for survivors of domestic violence and assault by facilitating additional opportunities for members of the bar to provide pro bono assistance. There will also be representatives from a number of organizations seeking help in providing pro bono legal services. They will be there to tell you more about their programs and answer questions about how you can help.

In addition, there will be a free CLE on pro bono representation on September 27, 2019 from 1–4 P.M., at the James Fitzgerald Federal Courthouse. In addition to refreshments and free CLE credit, the program will include a panel discussion with organizations who provide pro bono opportunities, such as Alaska Native Justice Center, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), and Alaska Legal Services Corporation, among others. Following the panel discussion, break-out sessions will be held for training in various areas of pro bono representation such as Section 1983 Claims by Honorable Sharon Gleason and Domestic Violence Claims by Christine Pate of ANDVSA.


For more information on these events, please contact Mary Pinkel, President, or Kevin Feldis, President-Elect of the Alaska Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Thank you in advance for the work that you do.

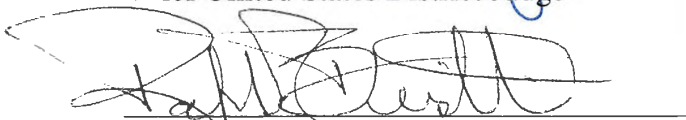
Sincerely,



Timothy M. Burgess
Chief United States District Judge



Sharon L. Gleason
United States District Judge



Ralph R. Beistline
Senior United States District Judge