



Chambers of
Elizabeth A. Wolford
Chief Judge

United States District Court
Western District of New York
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Rochester, New York 14614

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To: All Members of the Western District of New York Bar
From: Elizabeth A. Wolford, Chief Judge
Date: August 1, 2025
Re: Publication of the 2025 *Pro Bono* Honor Roll

Dear Member of the Bar:

I am pleased to announce publication of the Court's 2025 *Pro Bono* Honor Roll, acknowledging each attorney who has appeared as *pro bono* counsel in civil matters from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The Honor Roll is available on the Court's website and will be posted in the lobbies of the Robert H. Jackson and Kenneth B. Keating courthouses.

On behalf of the Judges, I extend our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to each attorney for their *pro bono* service in this District, and I encourage those members of this bar who have not yet joined the Volunteer Panel to please give serious consideration to doing so. The use of *pro bono* counsel facilitates equal access to justice for civil litigants, permits the Court to address cases more effectively, and often provides valuable federal court experience to attorneys. The selfless commitment and dedication that *pro bono* service requires is laudable.

If you would like to join the Volunteer Panel, please complete the Volunteer Panel form located on the Court's *Pro Bono* website and email it to probono@nywd.uscourts.gov. Attorneys may volunteer to accept a full-scope *pro bono* appointment or indicate a preference for a limited-scope *pro bono* appointment (*i.e.*—for a targeted portion of the case, such as mediation, amendment of pleadings, motion practice, etc.). Attorneys selected for *pro bono* appointments by the Court may also request assistance from the Court's Senior *Pro Bono* Panel, comprised of experienced federal practitioners chosen by the Court to provide guidance to *pro bono* counsel.

The Court has also partnered with JustCause, and the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc., to provide benefits to *pro bono* attorneys appointed under Loc. R. Civ. P. 83.8 including primary malpractice insurance coverage and CLE credits for *pro bono* service provided in this District. This collaboration has produced an annual series of free CLEs for members of the Volunteer Panel.

Our next CLE is scheduled for **October 23, 2025**. The Court will co-host a virtual CLE program with the Northern District of New York, featuring renowned constitutional law and federal civil procedure scholar, **Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley School of Law**. This promises to be a valuable program for federal litigators of all experience levels. Registration information will be published on the Court's website later this summer.