

Pro Bono Practice Status for Inactive/Retired & Out-of-State Lawyers

Pro bono practice status allows inactive/retired and out-of-state lawyers to provide pro bono legal assistance to indigent clients through a nonprofit legal services corporation in a variety of practice areas and levels of service.

Lawyers granted pro bono practice status **DO NOT**:

- Pay membership dues to the North Carolina State Bar;
- Have to maintain malpractice insurance (though they are typically covered by the policy of the nonprofit);
- Complete mandatory continuing legal education (though CLE may be taken if desired).

Lawyers granted pro bono practice status **MUST**:

- Petition and be approved by the North Carolina State Bar Council for pro bono status;
- Work under the supervision of a licensed North Carolina attorney at a legal aid organization (who will provide a statement to the North Carolina State Bar Council);
- Follow the guidelines approved by the North Carolina State Bar for court appearances.

Who is eligible?

- You are eligible for Pro Bono Emeritus if you are a North Carolina attorney who is inactive and in good standing.
- You are eligible for Pro Bono Status for Out of State Lawyers if you are an attorney in North Carolina who is licensed in another state (whether active or inactive) and in good standing.

What materials must applicants provide to obtain Pro Bono Practice Status?

- Completed petition (note that the petitions for Pro Bono Emeritus and Pro Bono Status for Out of State Lawyers are different!);
- Statement signed by an attorney employed by a legal services corporation who agrees to provide supervision;
- Discipline records, if any;
- If licensed in another state, a certificate of good standing for all states where licensed.

Where can you find more information about Pro Bono Practice Status?

- Visit <http://www.ncequalaccesstojustice.com/pro-bono-status/>.
- The rules related to Pro Bono Practice Status can be found at www.ncbar.gov/rules.
 - Subchapter A, Section .0200, .0201(c)(2)(E)—creating pro bono emeritus as category within inactive status;
 - Subchapter D, Section .0900, .0901(b)(3)—standard for granting petition for pro bono emeritus status; and
 - Subchapter D, Section .0900, .0905—rules for out of state lawyers seeking pro bono status.

Questions? Contact Mary Irvine at mirvine@ncbar.gov or 919-706-4435.