



**Volunteer
Attorney
Program
of New Mexico
Legal Aid**



Call For Volunteer Attorneys

Pro Bono Appellate Project – New Mexico Court of Appeals

The New Mexico Court of Appeals in conjunction with the State Bar of New Mexico Appellate Practice Section, New Mexico Legal Aid's Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP), and the Modest Means Helpline (MMH) of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation, invites New Mexico attorneys to join the Pro Bono Appellate Project. This initiative is designed to expand access to justice by providing pro bono appellate representation to low-income, self-represented litigants.

About the Program

This program will operate through the New Mexico Court of Appeals. Eligible pro se civil litigants, assigned to the general calendar, will be screened by VAP or MMH for financial eligibility and potential conflicts. Once screened, eligible cases will be circulated to a panel of volunteer attorneys who may evaluate the case and, if they choose, represent the referred litigant. Malpractice coverage is provided to participating attorneys through VAP/NMLA or MMH/NMSBF.

Role of Participating Partners

- ▶ **Appellate Practice Section:** Promotes the program, recruits volunteer attorneys, monitors program operations, and collaborates with partner entities to address procedural or operational needs.
- ▶ **Court of Appeals:** Approve and support the program through appropriate rules, orders, and procedures and facilitate temporary stays while eligibility screening and placement efforts occur.
- ▶ **VAP and MMH:** Screen litigants for eligibility, conduct conflict checks, prepare case summaries, circulate opportunities to volunteer attorneys, and provide malpractice coverage.

Pro Bono Opportunity for Attorneys

Volunteer attorneys play a central role in ensuring access to justice for New Mexicans who cannot afford counsel. Attorneys may:

- ▶ Evaluate referred cases with the record on appeal made available for review.
- ▶ Decide whether to accept for full representation after evaluation; therefore, providing pro bono assistance to litigants who face significant barriers navigating the appellate process.

Join the Pro Bono Appellate Panel

Attorneys willing to volunteer for appellate matters are encouraged to join the attorney pool. To participate, please complete the sign-up form found here: [Pro Bono Appellate Project Volunteer Attorney Sign-Up](#) 

Sincerely,

Judge Zachary A. Ives
New Mexico Court of Appeals