THE JUDICARE PROJECT
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY INFORMATION

MARYLAND VOLUNTEER LAWYERS SERVICE

WHAT IS JUDICARE?

The Judicare project provides funding to legal services providers throughout Maryland to recruit experienced family law lawyers who will accept contested family law cases for a reduced fee. Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) is looking for volunteers to take on contested custody and other contested family cases.

The purpose of this statewide project is to address the heightened numbers of unrepresented low-income parties in contested family law cases. Without the Judicare project, low-income family law litigants are often unable to access legal help because of the complex nature of their cases.

ATTORNEY REQUIRMENTS

Attorneys must have at least three years of family law experience and be admitted to practice law in Maryland. This requirement may be waived if the attorney has two years of family law experience and will be mentored by an experienced family law attorney in their law firm. (If you do not have the requisite experience and would like to join our MVLS team and receive mentorship and training, please contact us.)

COMPENSATION & RESOURCES

- Guaranteed compensation, $120 per hour for attorney, up to $4200 per case;
- First tier malpractice insurance;
- A network of excellent, supportive family law attorneys; including mentorship;
- MVLS family law staff attorney;
- PBRC litigation fund reimbursement of litigation costs;
- MVLS Judicare Listserv;
- MVLS Family Lawyer Monthly Open Office Hours;
- MVLS Volunteer Resources;
- MVLS Trainings;
- Language Access Services for your MVLS cases;
- Regular updates on relevant legislation, programs, and news articles affecting your area of law.

HOW DO I JOIN?

To join, contact Jennifer Haber, MVLS Family Law Staff Attorney at **JHaber@MVLSlaw.org**.

If you are not yet on our volunteer panel, please apply online at **www.mvlslaw.org**.

CLIENT ELIGIBILITY

Judicare clients must meet the same asset and income guidelines as are required for referral to a pro bono lawyer, i.e. income less than 50% of the Maryland median income, following the Maryland Legal Service Corporation's income guidelines.

The MVLS Judicare Program serves Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Somerset, St. Mary's, Washington, Wicomico, Worcester counties and Baltimore City. Other legal services providers operate Judicare programs in the rest of the state (a complete list is available at **www.mlsc.org**).

BENFITS

- Become involved in improving the lives of others through your legal representation.
- Interact with people from diverse backgrounds which allows one to gain and develop other perspectives.
- Do work for which who have a passion.
- Use and develop your legal skills to enhance and grow your practice.
- Engage with and learn from a wonderful community of committed attorneys through an active interactive listserv and mentoring activities.
- Network at two large events every year: A Taste for Pro Bono and Celebrate Pro Bono.
- Opportunity to: be featured widely as Volunteer of the Month, to receive one of our annual awards and/or to be featured on our social media pages.
- Develop a sense of accomplishment by providing a worthwhile and valuable service to your community and to our clients.

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