

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

In the matter of)
)
The Administration of the Pro Bono Fund) GENERAL ORDER NO. 467
Under Civil Local Rule 83.8)
_____)

Consistent with civil local rule 83.8 of the Local Rules of Practice for the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, the judges of the Court wish to restate the purposes of, and mechanics for, the Federal Civil Rights Pro Bono Project.

The Court has consistently been committed to the fair and efficient resolution of meritorious civil rights claims. This goal also helps conserve judicial resources so as to make the administration of justice more widely and promptly available to members of the public and attorneys who serve them.

To assist the Court in addressing these concerns, the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program set up the Federal Civil Rights Pro Bono Project. The project has been partially funded by nonappropriated funds derived from attorney admission fees from the United States District Court. Because of the limited resources available to contribute to the project, the use of this money will be limited to cases referred to the San Diego Volunteer Program by the Court. Individual inquiries and community referrals are not included in this project. Funds shall be used so as to benefit multiple cases and make the services funded widely available.

SDVLP staff attorneys or law students under their direction screen and investigate the referred claims as appropriate. In its discretion, SDVLP determines whether the claim should be referred to a volunteer attorney. If so, it attempts to place the civil rights claim with one of its volunteer attorneys for representation of the client.

SDVLP will submit quarterly reports to the Clerk of the Court which outline the status of the project, including cases, activities and the use of the allocated funds to-date. By January 31, of each calendar year for which continued funding is sought, SDVLP shall submit a summary report of the past year's activities and expenditures together with any request for any additional amounts and their proposed use. From time to time, the Court may review the operation of the program to determine whether it is effectively and efficiently meeting the goals of the Court. Continued funding and the use of any nonappropriated funds are subject to annual review and approval of the district court judges. Changed circumstances may limit the Court's ability to fund the project on an ongoing basis. In addition, the Court reserves the right to discontinue the project for any reason and at any time.

DATED: April 12, 1999

FILED: April 13, 1999