

Subject: Seeking Attorneys for Court-Appointed Cases

Date: Monday, December 30, 2024 at 8:16:07 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: The WV State Bar <support@mywvbar.org>

To: Sara Whitaker <swhitaker@wvpolicy.org>

Seeking Attorneys for Court-Appointed Cases

I am reaching out on behalf of the 13th Judicial Circuit, to make you aware of a crisis in Kanawha County which directly impacts access to justice in our community. Within the last 10 years, the number of lawyers willing to serve as Court Appointed Counsel for criminal defendants (both misdemeanor and felony), Juvenile Abuse and Neglect, Guardians ad Litem, and Juvenile criminal matters has gone from an estimated 63 to 11. Kanawha County is currently in a situation where indigent defendants are in imminent danger of being denied their basic Constitutional rights and children have no representation in situations of abuse and neglect.

Court-appointed cases offer a unique opportunity including, but not limited, to:

- Make a profound difference in the lives of others.
- Gain significant practical courtroom experience.
- Contribute to the equitable administration of justice in our community.
- Make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children.
- Gain experience and develop skills in various areas of the law.

If you are willing to serve on the Court Appointed list in Kanawha County, please contact Christopher McClung, Court Administrator at 304.357.0310 or Christopher.McClung@courtswv.gov.

Please consider voluntarily accepting Court Appointments as the need in Kanawha County is dire and the impact on the community is profound.

Sincerely,

Judge Maryclaire Akers, Chief, 13th Judicial Circuit, Kanawha County