

Eligibility Criteria for Volunteer *Pro Bono* Program Attorneys

To participate in the program, applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- 1) The attorney has a valid license to practice law in Illinois for a minimum of 5 years OR has a valid license to practice law in another state for a minimum of 5 years and has been admitted to practice law in Illinois *pro hac vice* under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 707.
- 2) The attorney has up-to-date malpractice insurance.
- 3) The attorney has no ARDC disciplines, including censure, probation, suspension, or disbarment.
- 4) The attorney has had at least 2 prior appearances as appellate counsel in civil and/or criminal appeals OR has prior experience clerking for a federal or state reviewing court judge, or as an attorney in the Appeals Divisions of the State Appellate Defender, the State's Attorney, the US Attorney or the Office of the Attorney General for at least 2 years.

For Attorneys Who Do Not Meet Eligibility Criteria

There are two options for attorneys to participate in the program who do not meet the abovementioned eligibility criteria.

- An attorney may participate in the program if the applicant will work under the supervision of an attorney who has the requisite experience *and* who has qualified as a *Pro Bono* Volunteer Attorney. The supervisor will have to be approved before the non-qualifying applicant is approved.

or

- The attorney can reapply after obtaining the requisite experience and/or completing "Criminal Appeals in Illinois: An Introduction to Law and Procedure," a 5-week online course that is administered on a quarterly basis by OSAD. Future training dates are scheduled as follows: September 21, 2020 through October 23, 2020 (registration closes September 18th) or January 4, 2021 through February 5, 2021. To sign-up for a training course, please email the Office of the State Appellate Defender at probono@osad.state.il.us. You can also read more about the training program [here](#).

This program is not currently open to law students with a Rule 711 license or who are participating in a law school clinic. Should any future opportunities arise for student participation in this pro bono program, those details will be posted on the Court's website.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Kathryn Hensley, Senior Program Manager, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (khensley@illinoiscourts.gov).