

MARYLAND VOLUNTEER LAWYERS SERVICE



Legal assistance for people in need

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January 24, 2001

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Dina Merrill, Esq.
American Bar Association
Center for Pro Bono
541 North Fairbanks Court
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Dina:

Thank you again for all the materials on community economic development.

In response to your request for sample letters sent by judges, I am enclosing two letters that were particularly helpful. The letter from the Circuit Court netted 103 new lawyers. The Bankruptcy Court 75 new names and we are still calling the list that the Court provided.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winifred C. Borden', written in a cursive style.

Winifred C. Borden
Executive Director

Executive Director
Winifred C. Borden

Deputy Director
Mina Naddaf

Enclosures
/wcb



The Circuit Court for Baltimore County

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND

DANA MARK LEVITZ
JUDGE

April 2, 1997

COUNTY COURTS BUILDING
TOWSON, MD. 21204
(410) 887-2630
TDD (410) 887-3018
FAX (410) 887-4806

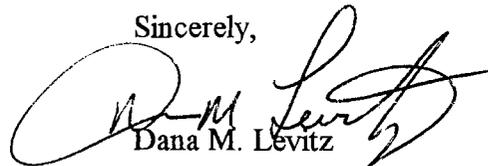
Dear

In the past two years, our Bench has seen a significant increase in the need for "family matters" legal services in Baltimore County. We believe this increase is attributable, in part, to changing demographics and staff reductions at Legal Aid. We have been advised that there is a critical shortage of volunteer lawyers by Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and that the need for attorneys to handle divorce and contested custody proceedings for indigent parents is acute.

On behalf of our Bench, I am requesting that you volunteer yourself or a member of your firm to handle one domestic pro bono case per year through Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service. MVLS facilitates pro bono work by prescreening clients and offering malpractice insurance, training seminars, mentors and free use of LEXIS.

If you are willing to respond to this need, your help will be most appreciated by the Court. Please indicate your willingness by checking the appropriate blank below and returning this letter to me.

Sincerely,



Dana M. Levitz

I am willing to accept one pro bono
domestic case through MVLS

I am unable to help

Volunteer Attorney

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

PAUL MANNES
JUDGE

May 19, 2000

U. S. Courthouse
6500 Cherrywood Lane
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
(301) 344-8040

Dear Counsel:

The Judges of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland are asking for your help to address a serious problem confronting our court.

Over the past two years, we have witnessed a significant increase in the number of cases filed in proper person, especially in Chapter 7. Because pro se debtors often do not understand the technical requirements involved, these cases not only clog the system but result in the denial of justice to otherwise deserving people.

The Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS), the state's largest pro bono program, provides free representation to such clients by matching them with volunteer attorneys, offering malpractice insurance, training, mentoring and the use of LEXIS at no charge. However, MVLS has advised us that it is no longer able to handle the volume of income-eligible clients who contact the service for help in filing Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases.

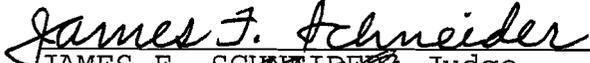
As a member of the bar of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, you have indicated a willingness to accept a pro bono bankruptcy case. Accordingly, we have provided your name to MVLS. When you are contacted by a representative of MVLS and asked to represent a client, we are counting on you to respond affirmatively to the request.

By such response, you will not only be fulfilling your pro bono commitment, but more importantly, you will help to fulfill the promise of equal justice for all to those in the most unfortunate of economic circumstances.

Sincerely,



PAUL MANNES, Chief Judge



JAMES F. SCHNEIDER, Judge



E. STEPHEN DERBY, Judge



DUNCAN W. KEIR, Judge