

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS NEEDED FOR NEW *PRO SE* CLINIC PLANNED AT FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT

In 2017, attorneys will be providing a new service to the public at the U.S. District Court in Phoenix. A new *Pro Se* Clinic is being planned by federal court Judges and staff, the Federal Bar Association, the Volunteer Lawyers Program, and others. This new *pro bono* clinic will provide free brief legal advice to unrepresented federal court litigants with civil cases.

Honorable Diane Humetewa, Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, has been working with other Judges and Court staff on planning for the new *Pro Se* Clinic. She emphasized the importance of this service to the public and to the Court. She explained, “The *Pro Se* Clinic will provide increased access to justice for unrepresented litigants who may want to bring a civil claim and cannot afford to pay a lawyer for advice about where and how to file. The Clinic also will help litigants be better prepared when they come to Court, so they will be more effective in communicating about their cases, and the Court will be able to operate more efficiently.”

The Federal Bar Association (FBA) Phoenix Chapter and the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP), which is co-sponsored by Community Legal Services and the Maricopa County Bar Association, will arrange experienced federal court practitioners to provide individual legal advice at Court at the new *Pro Se* Clinic. The attorneys will be asked to commit two hours to help at a clinic approximately once every 6 weeks. Very experienced attorneys may serve as mentors and consultants. Other volunteers may assist with coordinating the clinic services.

VLP will provide primary malpractice coverage for the volunteer attorneys and verification of *pro bono* hours for attorneys interested in claiming self-study CLE credit for this *pro bono* service. An orientation and CLE training for interested volunteer attorneys will be offered before the new clinic begins.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Pat Gerrich at pgerrich@clsaz.org or 602-254-4714.