

District Court of Maryland

APPOINTED ATTORNEYS PROGRAM Fact Sheet



The Maryland Judiciary is actively seeking attorneys to serve in the District Court of Maryland Appointed Attorneys Program. The program was created in response to a ruling issued by the Maryland Court of Appeals that held that indigent criminal defendants have a state constitutional right to appointed counsel at initial appearances before District Court commissioners. This program provides attorneys with the opportunity to contribute their valuable legal expertise to assist low income Marylanders, while receiving compensation from the state.

Selection of Attorneys

To be eligible for the District Court of Maryland Appointed Attorneys Program, an attorney must:

- Be licensed to practice in the state of Maryland, in good standing and not subject to any pending disciplinary proceedings;
- Comply with the District Court's training requirements (attend an in-person training or a webinar) and certify that the rules on initial appearances have been reviewed;
- Agree to compensation of \$50 an hour, plus reimbursement of mileage and tolls, for services rendered or receive pro bono credit; and
- Complete an application form and sworn statement.

Scheduling

Scheduling needs may vary according to the jurisdiction. For example, participants could elect to work for a few hours a week or as many as 40 hours each week, depending on the demand for service. Upon appointment, a District Court representative will contact the attorney to schedule his/her shifts. Unless a general appearance has been entered, an appearance by a court-appointed attorney is limited to the initial appearance and terminates automatically upon the conclusion of that hearing. The start date for the program is July 1, 2014.

Training

In-person and online training will be provided to attorneys participating in the program. For attorneys barred less than six months, the attorney must attend a two-hour training session coordinated by the Maryland Professionalism Center, Inc. Other attorneys may attend or watch the training video.

How to Apply

Interested attorneys may download an application at mdcourts.gov or email their contact information, including jurisdictional preferences to appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov, or call 410-260-1230. Alternatively, an attorney can fill out a paper application and forward the application to:

Office of the Coordinator of Commissioner Activity
ATTN: District Court of Maryland Appointed Attorneys Program
251 Rowe Boulevard, Suite 341
Annapolis, MD 21401

For additional information, please email appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov or visit mdcourts.gov.