

FROM THE BENCH



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

STATE OF MINNESOTA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



Dear colleague:

This is an historic year for Minnesota's lawyers and judiciary. Our bench and the bar face a crisis of unmet need for legal representation for the disadvantaged in Minnesota unlike any in recent memory. The promise of equal justice under law is the most fundamental tenet of our justice system. A broken promise of equal access to justice tears at the fabric of society, and the fundamental compact that all are equal before the law.

We, the judges of Hennepin County District Court and the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, urge you to help in meeting this need by answering the "Call to Honor" of the organized bar of this state. We ask you to step forward to take on a pro bono case for someone who will otherwise lack access to justice.

Pro bono volunteer work for those who otherwise have no access to justice meets the highest calling of the profession. In this time of unprecedented need, we the bench of Hennepin County and United States District Court, have for the first time in Minnesota history, issued a collective call to action to the bar. We challenge the lawyers of the State's most populous county, with the most lawyers, and the greatest unmet need, to make real the promise of equal justice under law.

Judges in Minnesota have long joined with lawyers to provide a system of justice recognized as among the best in the country. We cannot remain at the forefront without your pledge and commitment to support pro bono work. We ask you to consider saying, today: "I will be the difference for someone who is unable to afford counsel. I will use my lawyer's knowledge and skills to help a person who lacks the means to afford counsel, and teach that person the meaning of equal justice under law."

The undersigned judges of the United States District Court and Hennepin County District Court:

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everyone and that can't happen without pro bono legal work. Pro bono lawyers are needed for both litigation and transactional work, and without you, someone needing a lawyer to get justice will go without. Working with the MSBA, LAD (Legal Assistance to the Disadvantaged) helps provide lawyers with an opportunity to make a powerful difference. Now, rediscover the true meaning of law.





A Call to Honor,
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