

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY ATTORNEYS ABOUT
THE BANKRUPTCY COURT'S PRO BONO PROGRAM**

What is the Bankruptcy Court's Pro Bono program?

In an appropriate adversary proceeding, the Bankruptcy Court may enter an order approving a motion an indigent party's Application for Pro Bono Counsel. Such a motion might be granted at different stages of the proceeding, such as before discovery, before a hearing on a dispositive motion, or before a final pretrial conference. The Court will contact members of bar who have expressed a general interest in providing pro bono services to indigent litigants once the order approving the motion has entered.

Further information on this Plan is available at <https://www.mab.uscourts.gov/adversary-proceeding-pro-bono-program>

In what types of cases does the Bankruptcy Court approve an Application for Pro Bono Counsel?

At this time the program is limited to indigent parties in adversary proceedings. It is not available for any proceedings in the main bankruptcy case.

What costs and fees are reimbursed?

In cases where an Application for Pro Bono Counsel has been allowed, Pro Bono Counsel may seek reimbursement from the Court for certain costs and expenses. Reimbursement is not guaranteed, is subject to Court approval and is subject to available funding. For more information on what costs and expenses may be recoverable, please refer to Reimbursement Guidelines on the webpage referenced above.

How do I know I am eligible?

In addition to the Application, you will be required to submit a Supplemental Questionnaire with supporting documents along with an affidavit. With the exception of the Application, all documents are filed under seal and not made available to the public or to parties in the proceeding. At a minimum, your household income must be 200 per cent or below the HHS Poverty Guidelines. Other information is also considered. Contact the Court at probono@mab.uscourts.gov learn more.

Will I get an attorney if I am eligible?

If the Court allows the Application, a Volunteer attorney may appear in the case on your behalf. The availability of an attorney depends on many factors including whether there are volunteers available at that time. Approval of the application is no guarantee an attorney will appear throughout the case.

Who do I contact to learn more?

Contact the Court at probono@mab.uscourts.gov with questions. Remember, you cannot obtain any legal advice from the Clerk's office.