

The Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program offers attorneys who otherwise could be engaged in the active practice of law, such as retired attorneys who have temporarily stopped practicing law, the opportunity to contribute their valuable skills to legal services providers and the pro bono panels of lawyer referral services, thus increasing the availability of assistance to low-income clients throughout California. Emeritus Attorneys can provide direct legal representation, advice and community legal education to low-income clients, serve as mentors to legal services staff, or provide assistance with administration and fund raising.

Emeritus attorneys do not have to be experts in poverty law to provide valuable services to low-income clients. Emeritus Attorneys may receive training, access to MCLE programs, malpractice insurance coverage, and supervision through their local pro bono programs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Attorneys applying to the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program must:

- ◆ be in good standing with the State Bar of California;
- ◆ have practiced law or served as a judge in California at least three out of the last eight years;
- ◆ have been admitted to practice law in any jurisdiction in the United States at least ten years preceding application to the program;
- ◆ agree to practice law on a pro bono basis through a qualified legal services program or a State Bar certified lawyer referral service.

WHAT IS A QUALIFIED LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM?

A qualified legal services program, for purposes of enrollment in the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program, is any legal services program that receives, or is eligible to receive, a grant from the State Bar Legal Services Trust Fund Program. Emeritus Attorney participants with a State Bar certified lawyer referral service are limited to the no-fee panel or pro bono clinic of the service. A list of more than 100 eligible programs throughout California is available from the Program Development Unit at 415/538-2328 or programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov.

MUST EMERITUS ATTORNEYS COMPLY WITH MCLE REQUIREMENTS?

Yes. All members of the State Bar of California on active status *must* meet Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirements, including Emeritus Attorneys.

The MCLE requirements have changed as of September 2000. If attorneys are uncertain as to their current MCLE obligations, contact the Office of Certification at 415/538-2130. To assist program participants in meeting this requirement, many legal services programs offer legal training and education at no charge, both preparing the participating attorneys for their volunteer work and fulfilling the volunteer's MCLE obligation. Also, **California Bar Journal** waives the fee for Emeritus Attorneys for self-study exams contained in their issues. Also, reduced fees to programs offered by **Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB)** are available when the legal services program with which the Emeritus Attorney is volunteering prepays by agency check for the cost of enrollment. Finally, the State Bar of California continues to provide low-cost ways for Emeritus Attorneys to fulfill their MCLE obligations whenever possible, including some State Bar-sponsored events.

MAY EMERITUS ATTORNEYS PRACTICE LAW OUTSIDE OF THE PROGRAM?

No. Emeritus Attorneys may provide legal work *only* through qualified legal services programs and State Bar certified lawyer referral services. Emeritus Attorneys may volunteer with more than one qualified program.

IS THERE A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF PRO BONO WORK EMERITUS ATTORNEYS MUST DONATE?

No. Each Emeritus Attorney arranges with the legal services program or lawyer referral service to provide an agreed upon amount of pro bono assistance.

MUST EMERITUS ATTORNEYS RE-ENROLL EVERY YEAR?

Yes. Emeritus Attorneys must submit a new application for the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program every year during the regular membership billing cycle.

CAN MEMBERSHIP FEES BE REFUNDED TO ATTORNEYS WHO ENROLL IN THE EMERITUS ATTORNEY PROGRAM?

Yes. State Bar membership fees are due every year on February 1. Membership fee refunds will be given to attorneys who have paid the current year's membership fee and subsequently enroll in the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Participation Program prior to the February 1 deadline.

More information is available on the State Bar's web site at www.calbar.ca.gov or email us at programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov, or call us at 415/538-2328.

FOR ATTORNEYS INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN THE EMERITUS ATTORNEY PROGRAM

Please send me:

- Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program Rules, Application and Sworn Statement
 - List of Legal Services Trust Fund Program recipients and certified lawyer referral services in the following county(ies):
- _____
- _____

FOR PRO BONO PROGRAM COORDINATORS INTERESTED IN RECRUITING EMERITUS ATTORNEYS

Please send me:

- Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program Rules, Application and Sworn Statement
 - List of inactive attorneys in the following county(ies):
- _____
- _____

- Please contact me so that I may learn more about recruitment strategies for the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program.

Name: _____

Name of Program, if applicable: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: Emeritus Attorney Program
Program Development Unit
State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639

Fax to: 415/538-2552

Email: programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov