

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 16-20**

**D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project:
Law Fellows Providing *Pro Bono* Representation in the
Superior Court of the District of Columbia Domestic Violence Unit and the
Domestic Relations Branch**

WHEREAS, the Superior Court has the authority to approve special programs to allow those who are not members of the District of Columbia Bar to provide legal services to the public pursuant to D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 49(c)(10); and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2009, this Court issued Administrative Order 09-10 approving the D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project (“DCVLP”) as a special program to provide legal services to the public under D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 49(c)(10); and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2011, this Court issued Administrative Order 11-12, extending the DCVLP’s status as a special program under Rule 49(c)(10) for three years, until July 2014; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2013, this Court issued Administrative Order 13-21, extending the DCVLP’s status as a special program under Rule 49(c)(10) for three years, until December 2016; and

WHEREAS, attorneys affiliated with the DCVLP have provided valuable *pro bono* representation to low-income clients in family law matters before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia under Administrative Orders 09-10, 11-12, and 13-21; and

WHEREAS, the DCVLP and attorneys practicing in affiliation with the DCVLP have been in compliance with all provisions of Administrative Orders 09-10, 11-12, and 13-21; and

WHEREAS, the Court has reviewed the DCVLP’s written proposal to allow Law Fellows hosted by DCVLP, who are awaiting admission to a bar, to represent clients in petitions for Civil Protection Orders in the Domestic Violence Unit and to represent victims of domestic violence as well as at-risk children as *Guardians ad Litem* in legal proceedings in the Domestic Relations Branch, consistent with the supervision outlined in this proposal; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2012, this Court issued Administrative Order 12-15 allowing DCVLP Law Fellows to represent CPO petitioners pending bar admissions; and

WHEREAS, the DCVLP and its Law Fellows have complied with all provisions of Administrative Order 12-15; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law has no objection to this practice under certain conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, that recent law school graduates who are affiliated with the DCVLP as Law Fellows, and who have taken a bar examination and applied to join the bar of any state but have not yet been admitted to a bar, may provide *pro bono* representation to clients in the Domestic Violence Unit and the Domestic Relations Branch, including service as court-appointed *Guardians ad Litem*, consistent with the following requirements:

1. The Law Fellows shall be trained and supervised by an enrolled, active member of the District of Columbia Bar in good standing who is affiliated with the DCVLP; and
2. The Law Fellows shall be certified by the dean of the law school from which they have graduated as being “of good character and competent legal ability” as described in D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 48(b)(3); and
3. The Law Fellows shall submit to the DCVLP the results of the bar examination for which they sat prior to commencing their Law Fellowship, and any Law Fellow who does not achieve a passing result on the bar examination will no longer be eligible to represent clients under the terms of this Administrative Order; and
4. The Law Fellows shall disclose to their clients that the Law Fellow is not a member of the D.C. Bar and has not been admitted to the bar of any state; and
5. The Law Fellows shall add the following disclaimer as an asterisk after their name when it appears on pleadings:

“Not admitted to practice in the District of Columbia. This Law Fellow is practicing in this Court under the supervision of the D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project under D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 49(c)(10).”; and it is further

ORDERED, that the DCVLP shall submit a report to the Court annually, thirty (30) days prior to the anniversary date of this Administrative Order, stating the number of Law Fellows who practiced under this Administrative Order during the preceding year; and it is further

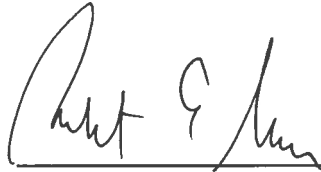
ORDERED, that the number of Law Fellows practicing under this Administrative Order shall at no time exceed the number of attorneys affiliated with the DCVLP who are enrolled, active members of the District of Columbia Bar; and it is further

ORDERED, that the status of the Law Fellows Pro Bono Program shall terminate three years from the date of this Administrative Order, unless it is extended by the Court.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

Date: December 14, 2016



Robert E. Morin, Chief Judge

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Karen Barker Marcou, D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project