

Illinois Supreme Court's Volunteer *Pro Bono* Program for Criminal Appeals

Information for Attorneys about the Program

Attorney Applications

Interested attorneys should submit an [application](#) to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC). Applications are processed as received, and attorneys can expect to receive a reply within 1-2 days of submitting their application. Once approved by the AOIC, the attorney will be added to the volunteer roster and OSAD will then be in contact with detailed instructions and information for case assignment.

If you work for a law firm and have a designated *Pro Bono* Counsel or *Pro Bono* Practice Manager, you may list that individual on your application and that person may serve as the primary contact for your firm.

Any attorney who does not meet eligibility criteria, but who wishes to participate in the program under the supervision of an approved attorney for the program, must submit an application to the AOIC and list the name of their supervising attorney on question 12 of the application.

This program is not currently open to law students with a Rule 711 license or who are participating in a law school clinic. Should any future opportunities arise for student participation in this pro bono program, those details will be posted on the Court's website.

Case Assignment

Cases within the program consist of direct appeals in both jury and non-jury cases, with a record of 2,500 pages or less. OSAD will contact the defendant and obtain written consent to participate in the pro bono program.

OSAD will assign a case to the approved *pro bono* attorney and send the secured portion of the case record with specific instructions about motion practice. The approved attorney is required to accept the case except for reasons relating to health, conflict of interest or impending dates of trial on another matter.

Comprehensive instructions about this process will be emailed to approved attorneys in the program and OSAD's Deputy Directors will be available for consultation about any issues relating to the case.

Training

OSAD currently has available the following materials to assist volunteer attorneys in their preparation of briefs on appeal: Criminal Law Handbook and Monthly Digests, Handbook on Briefs and Oral Arguments, and Illinois Supreme Court Pending Issues. OSAD also provides online video training on appellate advocacy to volunteer attorneys. Attorneys approved for the program will receive a link to these materials in email communication from OSAD.

Attorneys who do not meet [eligibility requirement #4](#) may qualify by completing "Criminal Appeals in Illinois: An Introduction to Law and Procedure," a 5-week online course that is administered on a quarterly basis by OSAD. You can review the curriculum, find future training dates, and read more about the training program [here](#).