



State of Maryland
Fifth Judicial Circuit
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County
8 Church Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Ronald A. Silkworth
Chief Judge

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February 7, 2018

Dear Counsel,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Anne Arundel County Local Pro Bono Committee. Recently, you should have received a reminder regarding your obligation, as an attorney in Maryland, to file your IOLTA and Pro Bono reporting form by February 15, 2018.

For too many years the statistics reflected in the reporting suggest that Anne Arundel County attorneys perform fewer pro bono hours than any county in the state. I don't believe that this is true. It is far more likely that they do more but do not necessarily seek the credit.

Nevertheless, today, I am writing to you to personally request that you carefully review and timely file your annual report, examining all of your time in order to provide a complete report of your service hours. That should include service hours through your work in the AABA, the James C. Cawood Inn of Court or any other covered bar association activity. If you have not been as involved in Pro Bono activities, please consider the many things that you can do and ways you can help to improve access to justice.

To assist you, I am attaching a copy of the *Frequently Asked Questions* published on the Maryland Judiciary website. Please pay particular attention to those activities that qualify so you do not underestimate or under report your many activities. Also, please consider volunteering for some of the activities reflected.

Please join your fellow lawyers in Anne Arundel County to ensure that 2018 is the year that our reporting reflects the true efforts at providing pro bono legal services.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter and also for all that you do to promote improved access to justice.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Silkworth, Chief Judge