

The Nevada Supreme Court, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, and the Pro Bono Committee of the State Bar of Nevada's Appellate Litigation Section have established a joint program to provide pro bono attorneys for eligible unrepresented parties in certain civil appeals and writ petitions.* The Program serves parties with incomes not exceeding 55% to 75% of the Federal Median Family Income.

The Supreme Court screens eligible civil matters for referral to the Program, making a preliminary determination as to jurisdiction and the issues involved, and also factors in the number of appeals currently in the Program, the age of the matter, and the number of available volunteer lawyers.

If the court concludes that representation by counsel is appropriate, the court may refer an appeal or petition to Legal Aid Center for an evaluation of the litigant's financial eligibility. If the litigant is financially eligible and does not object to representation, Legal Aid Center works with the State Bar to appoint volunteer attorneys to accept the representation. Once counsel is appointed, the case will be processed pursuant to the applicable Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure for briefing and oral argument.

The Supreme Court established the joint Appellate Pro Bono Program in the fall of 2013. As of January, 2016, pro bono counsel have been appointed on behalf of 80 clients. Published opinions resulting from cases placed in the Program, include: *Abarra v. State*, 131 Nev., Adv. Op. 3, 342 P.3d 994 (2015); *Bluestein v. Bluestein*, 131 Nev., Adv. Op. 14, 345 P.3d 1044 (2015); *Ferguson v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep't*, 131 Nev., Adv. Op. 94, ___ P.3d ___ (December 24, 2015); and *Hohenstein v. Nev. Empl. Sec. Div.*, 131 Nev., Adv. Op. 17, 346 P.3d 365 (2015).

An attorney interested in taking an appeal through the Program should contact the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada at probono@lacsno.org. Attorneys may also view the currently available cases by visiting Legal Aid Center's Pro Bono Project website at www.lacsno.org

*Criminal matters and appeals involving the termination of parental rights are not included in the program.