

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 09- 10**

**D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project
Attorneys Providing *Pro Bono* Representation in the
Superior Court of the District of Columbia Family Court and Domestic Violence Unit**

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, attorneys affiliated with the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project (“DCVLP”) provide pro bono representation to indigent clients in family law matters before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia Family Court; and

WHEREAS, the DCVLP will improve its ability to represent additional clients in such matters, who would otherwise go unrepresented, through the use of lawyers who are not active members of the District of Columbia Bar, with disclosure to the individual client of the bar status of the attorney; and

WHEREAS, the DCVLP recruits, trains and supervises attorneys through a rigorous and consistent process; and

WHEREAS, the Court has reviewed the DCVLP’s proposal to be designated as a specifically authorized court program pursuant to D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 49(c)(10), and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law has no objection to the proposal under certain conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by this Court,

ORDERED, that attorneys affiliated with the DCVLP who are not members of the District of Columbia Bar may provide pro bono representation to indigent clients in the Family Court Domestic Relations Branch and the Domestic Violence Unit, consistent with the supervision and oversight provisions outlined in the proposal; and it is further,

ORDERED, that attorneys practicing under this Order, who wish to serve as Guardians Ad Litem in disputed custody cases, shall upon request by the Court, present their qualifications for approval by the Court prior to their appointment; and it is further,

ORDERED, that attorneys practicing under this Order shall provide the following disclosure as an asterisk after their name when it appears on pleadings:

“Not admitted to practice in the District of Columbia. This attorney is admitted to practice in (name of jurisdiction), and is practicing in this Court in affiliation with the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, a specifically authorized court program under D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 49(c)(10).”

And it is further,

ORDERED, that attorneys practicing under this Order will be supervised by an enrolled, active member of the District of Columbia Bar who is affiliated with the DCVLP; and it is further,

ORDERED, that attorneys practicing under this Order shall be subject to the District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct and the Rules of Superior Court relating to Domestic Relations and Domestic Violence Unit Proceedings, and will be subject to enforcement procedures applicable thereto to the same extent as if he or she were an enrolled, active member of the District of Columbia Bar; and it is further,

ORDERED, that the DCVLP shall submit a report to the Court annually, on the anniversary date of this Order, stating the number of lawyers who practiced under this Order during the preceding year; and it is further,

ORDERED, that the number of attorneys practicing under this Order shall not exceed a limit to be specified by this Court each year, and 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 DCVLP as a specifically authorized court program shall terminate two years from the date of this order unless its designation is extended by the Court.

SO ORDERED.

July 23, 2009

/s/

**Lee F. Satterfield
Chief Judge**

Copies to:

**Judges
Senior Judges
Magistrate Judges
Division Directors
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Court**