

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 14-12**

**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, Administrative Order 11-12, which extends the approval of the DC 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), expires after a term of three years, on July 21, 2014; and

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

WHEREAS, attorneys affiliated with the DCVLP have provided valuable *pro bono* representation to indigent clients in family law matters before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia Family Court and Domestic Violence Unit; and

WHEREAS, DCVLP will improve its ability to represent additional clients in such matters, who would otherwise go unrepresented, through the continued 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, DCVLP recruits, trains and supervises attorneys through a rigorous and consistent process; and

WHEREAS, the Court has reviewed DCVLP’s proposal to be designated as a specifically authorized court program pursuant to DC 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 the Court,

ORDERED, that the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project (“DCVLP”) is designated as a special program to provide legal services to the public under DC Court of Appeals Rule 49(c)(10), until further order of the Court changing or terminating its designation; it is further

ORDERED, that attorneys affiliated with 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 DCVLP proposals; 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 who are active members of the Bar of another state 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 DC 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 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 the 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 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 the number of attorneys affiliated with DCVLP who are enrolled, active members of the District of Columbia Bar.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

DATE: July 16, 2014

/s/
Lee F. Satterfield
Chief Judge

Copies to:

Judges

Senior Judges

Magistrate Judges

Executive Officer

Clerk of the Court

Division Directors

Library

Daily Washington Law Reporter

Jenny Brody, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project