

## District Court Eviction Calendar Volunteer Lawyer Program

The District Court is announcing a new volunteer lawyer program (Program) to assist the Court in its adjudication of tenancy and eviction cases. Volunteer lawyers will not be required to enter their appearances in pending cases but will serve in the capacity of friends of the court, offering advice and counsel to unrepresented litigants appearing on the District Court's tenancy and eviction calendars.

*Participation Requirements:* Volunteer lawyers will be expected to participate in a one (1) hour mandatory training session to gain familiarity with the tenancy and eviction process and relevant issues regarding their service to the Court during this Program; waiver of this mandatory training may be granted in the discretion of the Chief Judge. Volunteer lawyers will be expected to appear in court for five (5) morning sessions before December 31, 2020.

*Record Keeping and Certification:* Lawyers will be expected to track their volunteer days and have the judge presiding on the tenancy and eviction calendar sign for each day they are present. The reporting form is available here:

<https://www.courts.ri.gov/PublicResources/forms/District%20Court%20Forms/Tenancy%20and%20Eviction%20Calendar%202020%20%E2%80%93%20Tracking%20of%20Volunteer%20Hours.pdf>

*Participation Credits:* Volunteer lawyers who complete the mandatory training session and all five (5) appearances shall be entitled to receive six (6) CLE credits. Partial credits may be awarded for good cause, with the approval of the District Court.

*To Volunteer:* Lawyers interested in volunteering for this Program should contact the judicial officer assigned to the tenancy and eviction calendars in the respective counties:

Providence County:	Associate Judge Christopher Smith ( <a href="mailto:csmith@courts.ri.gov">csmith@courts.ri.gov</a> )
Kent County:	Associate Judge Melissa DuBose ( <a href="mailto:mdubose@courts.ri.gov">mdubose@courts.ri.gov</a> )
Newport County:	Associate Judge Colleen Hastings ( <a href="mailto:chastings@courts.ri.gov">chastings@courts.ri.gov</a> )
Washington County:	Associate Judge James Caruolo ( <a href="mailto:jcaruolo@courts.ri.gov">jcaruolo@courts.ri.gov</a> ) (*effective September 8, 2020*)

The District Court thanks the Bar in advance for answering its call for this important service!