



District Court of Maryland

APPOINTED ATTORNEYS PROGRAM Fact Sheet

The District Court of Maryland continuously accepts applications from attorneys to serve in the Appointed Attorney Program.

The program provides appointed counsel for indigent defendants at initial appearances before District Court Commissioners in compliance with the state Constitutional right to representation and the Maryland Rules.

This program provides attorneys the opportunity to contribute their valuable legal expertise to assist low-income individuals in an initial appearance while receiving compensation from the state.

Selection of Attorneys

To be eligible for the District Court of Maryland Appointed Attorneys Program, an attorney must:

- Be licensed to practice in the state of Maryland, in good standing and not subject to any pending disciplinary proceedings;
- Comply with protocols established by the District Court and local Commissioner's Offices and/or detention centers involving accountability, security, and processes;
- Review the online information videos and have read and understands the Maryland Rules on initial appearances;
- Agree to compensation of \$60 an hour for services rendered or receive pro bono credit in lieu of compensation;
- Complete an application form, a Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification (W9), and an Anti-Discrimination Acknowledgement Form.
- Representation is done remotely via telephone, but the attorney may be required to appear in-person in certain situations.
- Shifts may be available on a 24 hours bases, but the scheduled attorney must be available to respond immediately during their schedule shift.

Scheduling

The scheduling process for the Appointed Attorney Program is quite complex and is affected by a multitude of factors including (but not limited to) the number of hearings held, the demand for attorneys at these locations, shifts available for staffing, the number of participating attorneys, and funding.

The Appointed Attorney Program Coordinators (Coordinators) strive to make the scheduling process as fair as possible and to include as many as attorneys as possible, but the overriding goal is to fulfill the Constitutional mandate to ensure those who are arrested and cannot afford an attorney have the opportunity of being represented by an attorney at an initial appearance before a District Court Commissioner. The Coordinators continually adjust the process and are continually adding new attorneys in scheduling.

Due to this, the Coordinators will not provide information on scheduling, cannot accept unsolicited calls to be scheduled and will only accept emails regarding preferences. The Coordinators will contact attorneys for all scheduling.

Applying to the program does not guarantee any selection to serve as an appointed attorney and any selection does not guarantee further or continued selection to serve as an appointed attorney.

How to Apply

Interested attorneys may download an application form, a Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification (W9), and an Anti-Discrimination Acknowledgement Form at www.mdcourts.gov or email a request for these forms to appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov.

Completed forms can be emailed to: appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov, faxed to 410-260-1217 or mailed to: **Commissioner Headquarters** ATTN: Appointed Attorney Program, 251 Rowe Boulevard, Suite 341, Annapolis, MD 21401