

APPELLATE *PRO BONO* PROGRAM

If final judgment has been entered in your legal matter and you intend to appeal to the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA) but do not have an attorney, the Appellate *Pro Bono* Program may be able to match you with a volunteer attorney seeking appellate experience. However, you must meet certain requirements to be eligible for the program:

✦ Your appeal must be **non-criminal** (a civil appeal), in one of the following areas:

- Foreclosure
- Summary Possession
- Employment Discrimination
- Worker's Compensation
- Wrongful Termination
- Denial of Unemployment Benefits
- State Tax Appeals
- Probate Matters
- Paternity and non-married custody cases.

✦ To be eligible to apply, **YOU MUST ALREADY HAVE FILED A NOTICE OF APPEAL** and, if applicable, a Civil Appeals Docketing Statement. **Be aware there is a fixed deadline for doing so once the judgment in your matter is entered, so it is important you act promptly.** See Rules 3.1 and 4 of the Hawai'i Rules of Appellate Procedure, available at https://www.courts.state.hi.us/docs/court_rules/rules/hrap-1.htm

✦ You must complete an application form (which will be provided to you upon request when you file your Notice of Appeal). The application form must be accompanied by certain documents to establish you qualify for income and other eligibility factors.

BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT POINTS:

- An attorney is not guaranteed, even if applicants are found eligible for the program.
- **Applying for the assistance of a *pro bono* attorney does NOT delay any court deadlines**, such as filing the Notice of Appeal, the record on appeal, or other required submissions to the ICA. **You must diligently meet all court deadlines.**
- If you are accepted to the program, you will be required to pay a \$50.00 administration fee to Volunteer Legal Services of Hawai'i and **will be responsible for any costs associated with the appeal** (separate from the attorney's fees, which are waived by the *pro bono* attorney) including filing, transcript, or interpreter costs, to prepare the record on appeal and present arguments to the appellate courts.
- In considering your application, the project liaison may speak about your case with you, potential *pro bono* attorneys enrolled in the program, and attorneys who have worked on the matter in the past. Those conversations will be confidential and the information gathered will only be used to assist in coordinating a volunteer attorney.

QUESTIONS? Email: appellate@vlsh.org