

UNITED STATES

Jeffrey J. Graham, Chief Judge
Birch Bayh Federal Building
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46 East Ohio Street, Room 317
Indianapolis, IN 46204



BANKRUPTCY COURT

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July 15, 2024

To the Members of the Southern District of Indiana Bar:

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana is seeking additional volunteers for its Chapter 7 Pro Bono Panel. The steady increase in INSB case filings over the past 18 months (2023 filings were up 10.3% over 2022 figures, while the first half of this year has seen a 12.1% increase over the same period last year) has brought about the highest percentage of pro se filings since 2019, along with a corresponding surge in requests for pro bono services. Although the efforts of current Panelists are greatly appreciated, the growing rate of filings by unrepresented parties necessitates the addition of new volunteers.

Panel members are asked to consider assisting pro se parties involved in a case or proceeding who cannot afford legal representation (provided their income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty guidelines for their household size) and/or if one of the judges determines that it is in the best interest of the bankruptcy system to involve a volunteer attorney to aid the party in addressing and resolving the matter identified by the Court. There is never an obligation for a volunteer to accept a potential pairing with a pro se party.

I would like to encourage you to become a member of the Panel. If you are willing to serve on the Panel (eligibility is limited to attorneys admitted to practice in the Southern District of Indiana), please complete the [Application](#) form. For those who practice in District Court, registration for and handling of matters through the Panel may satisfy the District Court's Local Rule 87 Obligatory Panel requirement.

Thank you for considering the Court's request; questions can be addressed to the Court's [Pro Bono Coordinators](#).

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey J. Graham".

Jeffrey J. Graham, Chief Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court