

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-10**

Ayuda

**Attorneys and Law School Graduates Providing *Pro Bono* and *Low Bono* Representation in
the Family Court, Domestic Violence Division, Civil Division, and Small Claims and
Conciliation Branch**

WHEREAS, the Superior Court has the authority to approve special programs to allow individuals 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, Ayuda is a tax-exempt non-profit organization providing legal services to individuals with incomes up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level *pro bono* or at costs substantially below prevailing market rates ("*low bono*") to individuals who cannot afford market rates charged by a private attorney; and

WHEREAS, attorneys employed by Ayuda have provided valuable *pro bono* and *low bono* legal services in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia Family Court, Domestic Violence Division, Civil Division, and Small Claims and Conciliation Branch as well as before federal Immigration Agencies, including the Immigration Courts; and

WHEREAS, Ayuda seeks to provide *pro bono* and *low bono* legal services in Domestic Relations and child support cases in the Family Court, a Division in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia ("Superior Court"). Ayuda also seeks to provide *pro bono* and *low bono* legal services in civil Domestic Violence cases and Small Claims cases in the Civil Division of the Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, Ayuda seeks to provide *pro bono* and *low bono* legal services through the use of lawyers who are not active members of the District of Columbia Bar but are members in good standing of another jurisdiction's bar and supervised by an enrolled active member of the District of Columbia Bar in good standing employed by Ayuda, with disclosure to the individual client of the bar status of the attorney; and

WHEREAS, Ayuda seeks to provide *pro bono* and *low bono* legal services through the use of law school graduates who have taken the bar examination but have not yet been admitted to a bar and are supervised by an enrolled active member of the District of Columbia Bar in good standing employed by Ayuda, with disclosure to the individual client of the bar status of the graduate; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by Ayuda and attorneys or law school graduates will be provided at no cost to the Court.

WHEREAS, the Superior Court has reviewed Ayuda's request to be designated as a specifically authorized court program pursuant to District of Columbia 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 Superior Court,

ORDERED, that individuals employed by Ayuda who are not members of the District of Columbia Bar may provide *pro bono* and *low bono* legal services under the following circumstances:

(i) *Active Members of the Bar of Another State or Territory*. Where the person (a) is a member in good standing of the Bar of another state or territory; (b) is not disbarred or suspended for disciplinary reasons and has not resigned with charges pending in any jurisdiction or court; (c) is supervised by an enrolled, active member of the District of Columbia Bar employed by Ayuda; and (d) has submitted the application for admission to the District of Columbia Bar within 90 days of commencing practice in the District of Columbia. Persons practicing under this subsection may do so until their application to the District of Columbia Bar is either granted or denied;

(ii) *Law School Graduates Who Have Applied to the Bar and Taken the Bar Examination*. Where the person (a) has graduated from an ABA-accredited law school; (b) has taken the bar examination and applied to the bar of any jurisdiction but has not yet been admitted to any bar; (c) has been certified by the dean of the law school from which the person graduated as being “of good character and legal ability” as described in in D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 48(b)(3); and (d) is trained and supervised by an enrolled, active member of the D.C. Bar who is employed by Ayuda. Persons practicing under this section may do so until their bar application is either granted or denied.

And it is further,

ORDERED, that individuals practicing under this Order must provide the following disclosure after their name when it appears on pleadings, court filings, or discovery documents as well as business cards, letters, e-mails, webpages, or other business documents used in their practice under this Order:

“Not admitted to practice in the District of Columbia. Authorized to provide legal services under the supervision of a member of the District of Columbia Bar as an employee of Ayuda, a specifically authorized court program under D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 49(c)(10).”

And it is further,

ORDERED, that individuals practicing under this Order will be supervised by an enrolled, active member of the District of Columbia Bar who is employed by Ayuda and takes responsibility for the quality of the work and complaints concerning the services; and it is further,

ORDERED, that individuals practicing under this Order are subject to the District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct and to the applicable enforcement procedures to the same extent as if they were an enrolled, active member of the District of Columbia Bar; and it is further,

ORDERED, that the status of Ayuda as a specifically authorized court program shall terminate 18 months from the date of this order unless its designation is extended by the Court; and it is further,

ORDERED, that this Order shall take effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Date: September 1, 2021



Anita M. Josey-Herring
Chief Judge