

Rule Change 2007(08)

CHAPTER 18

COLORADO COURT RULES
RULES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE BAR

(New) RULE 223. Pro Bono/Emeritus Attorney

Statement of Purpose. To provide a licensing status to allow retired or inactive attorneys to provide pro bono legal services to the indigent through nonprofit entities as defined in part 1, below.

(1) A pro bono/emergitus attorney may, under the auspices of a Colorado nonprofit entity whose purpose is or includes the provision of pro bono legal representation to indigent or near-indigent persons, act as legal counsel on behalf of a person seeking representation through such entity.

(2) To act in such a capacity the pro bono/emergitus attorney must be either:

(a) An attorney admitted to practice law in Colorado who:

(i) is now on inactive status;

(ii) is in good standing;

(iii) has no pending disciplinary proceeding; and

(iv) will not receive or expect compensation or other direct or indirect pecuniary gain for the legal services rendered; or

(b) An attorney not admitted to practice in Colorado who meets the following conditions:

(i) is licensed to practice law and is on active, inactive, or equivalent status in another jurisdiction in the United States;

(ii) is in good standing in all courts and jurisdictions in which he or she is admitted to practice;

(iii) has no pending disciplinary proceeding;

(iv) agrees to be subject to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, the rules of procedure regarding attorney discipline and disability proceedings, and the remedies set forth in C.R.C.P. 234(a);

(v) limits his or her practice to acting as pro bono counsel as set forth in this rule and will not receive or expect compensation or other direct or indirect pecuniary gain for the legal services rendered hereunder; and

(vi) completes the application described herein and pays a one-time administrative fee of \$50.00, payable to The Clerk of the Colorado Supreme Court and collected by the Attorney

Registration Office. The application shall contain:

(A) A certification that the attorney agrees to the provisions of paragraphs (2)(b)(iv) & (v), above; and

(B) A certification that the attorney is in good standing in all courts and jurisdictions in which he or she is admitted to practice, and has no pending disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction.

(c) An attorney approved under this rule shall be assigned a certification number, which shall be used to identify the attorney's status as a pro bono/emeritus attorney.

(3) All fees collected by the Attorney Registration Office under this rule shall be used to fund the Attorney Regulation System.

(4) Pro bono/emeritus attorneys shall not be required to pay annual registration fees

(5) All pro bono/emeritus attorneys shall annually file a registration statement on or before February 28 of each year identifying the organized nonprofit entity or entities, as described in section (1) of this rule, for which the attorney is currently volunteering at the time of filing the registration statement or volunteered in the prior calendar year. In lieu of filing such a registration statement, the attorney may pay the registration fee that was applicable in the prior calendar year for registered inactive attorneys pursuant to C.R.C.P. 227(A) and, thereby, avoid termination of her or his pro/bono emeritus status. Failure of a pro bono/emeritus attorney to file a registration statement or pay the applicable prior year's inactive attorney registration fee by February 28 of each year shall result in automatic termination of pro bono/emeritus status.

(6) This Rule shall not preclude a nonprofit entity from receiving court-awarded attorney fees for representation provided by a pro bono/emeritus attorney and shall not preclude a pro bono/emeritus attorney from receiving reimbursement for otherwise recoverable costs incurred in representing a pro bono client.

Adopted by the Court, En Banc, June 28, 2007, effective July 1, 2007.

BY THE COURT:

**Gregory J. Hobbs, Jr.
Justice Colorado Supreme Court**