

Federal Legal Assistance Self Help Center(“FLASH”)

FLASH was established in May, 2010, to assist litigants who are considering filing or who are already parties to a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, San Jose Division. The FLASH program, funded by the Court, is one of just a handful of innovative court-funded programs dedicated to assisting pro se litigants.

FLASH provides the following services to pro se litigants in **non-prisoner civil cases**:

- Legal Advice regarding:
 - the merits of a potential federal lawsuit;
 - important procedural aspects of filing and serving a lawsuit in federal court;
 - litigation strategy.
- advice on:
 - how to plan and prepare for case management conferences, settlement conferences, ADR, negotiations, and court hearings;
 - how to interpret and understand opposing party filings and court orders.
- Assistance with preparing and filing litigation forms including: complaint, answer, requests for discovery, discovery responses, motions and opposition to motions, case management conference statements, and ADR selection;
- Places cases with private pro bono counsel for limited and full-scope representation. FLASH also provides clients with referrals to legal and/or social services organizations.

FLASH accepts walk-ins as well as scheduled appointments. Flash consultations typically last one hour. During each session, clients are advised that FLASH provides basic counsel and advice on procedures to litigate in federal court, and that each client continues to represent themselves. Clients can return, as necessary, to consult on additional litigation-related and procedural questions.

FLASH does *not* provide the following services: (1) Appear on behalf of clients in court, at depositions, or at any other court proceeding or hearing; (2) keep track of clients' court deadlines or filings; (3) investigate the facts of clients' cases or conduct legal research; (4) negotiate with clients' opponents or with the opponents' attorneys;(5) give legal advice by telephone, e-mail, mail, or any method other than in-person appointments (except for clients out of the San Jose area); and (6) have any involvement in bankruptcy, habeas, criminal, or prisoner cases.

Contact FLASH's Director, Steven Solomon, at (408) 297-1480 or by email at: ssolomon@probonoproject.org.

FLASH is a project of the Pro Bono Project Silicon Valley,