

March 19, 2007

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Dear District and County Court Judges:

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with useful information for defendants that come into your courtrooms in need of criminal representation.

For those defendants who do not qualify for a public defender or who wish to seek criminal representation, the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar provides a Sliding Scale Representation Program. This program was designed to provide our working-poor an avenue to explore when state-supported indigent representation was not available. So you know, representation under this program is not guaranteed. Representation costs and payment agreements are set between the accused and the representing attorney. Under this program, the attorneys have agreed that if someone is referred to them from this list and representation is agreed, the attorney will not insist on a normal retainer and will consider a person's income when setting rates.

On our website (www.ccdb.org) we have a link under "Defense Attorney Locator;" here we provide a list attorneys (and their contact information) who have volunteered to participate in the Sliding Scale Program. In addition, in the same area of our website, we provide a dozen common sense tips on how to find and work with a lawyer. You should take a moment to look at this portion of our website so you better understand what we have to offer members of the public.

We have decided that sending you a physical list of the attorneys participating in the Sliding Scale Program is not practical. Our list is accessible to everyone on our website and it is regularly updated with new participant and updated contact information. If you or your jurisdiction would like to print a hard copy of the participants in your area, it is very easy to copy and print the pertinent portion of the list for distribution from time to time. Also, feel free to instruct individuals to go to our website themselves (free internet access can be found in every library in Colorado).

Thank you for the opportunity to inform you of this resource. If you have any suggestions about how we might be able to improve this program, feel free to contact me or our Office Administrator, Pamela Faris, with your comments.

Regards,

Guss Guarino
Executive Director
Colorado Criminal Defense Bar