

# Hamilton County Juvenile Court

800 Broadway  
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[www.hamilton-co.org/juvenilecourt](http://www.hamilton-co.org/juvenilecourt)

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In partnership with Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, the Volunteer Lawyers Project, the Hamilton County Law Library, Hamilton County Child Support Enforcement Agency and the Cincinnati legal community, I am pleased to announce a new initiative at the Hamilton County Juvenile Court that will provide low-income people with access to free legal assistance prior to the filing of a custody or visitation action. The Hamilton County Juvenile Court *Custody and Visitation Clinic* will open its doors on September 25, 2017.

As attorneys who frequent our Court, you are aware of the large volume of *pro se* litigants in private custody, visitation and parenting time actions. While the help provided at the Clinic is not intended to serve as a substitute for legal representation at all stages of the proceedings, the Clinic offers an opportunity for low-income individuals to have brief consultations or meetings with an attorney to get legal advice about their case. This includes information about completing and filing forms and pleadings, preparation for court hearings, a description of the legal process, opportunities for assistance with pretrial settlement, drafting stipulations or agreements, and advice on how to get information, evidence and witnesses before the Court.

The Clinic will be staffed by volunteer lawyers, law students, paralegals, Legal Aid staff and Court staff. On behalf of Judge Powers and myself, I am sending this letter to ask if you or anyone you know might be interested in serving as a volunteer for our new Clinic. It is anticipated that the Clinic will be open Mondays from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM and Wednesdays from 9:00 AM -1:00 pm. We are asking attorneys to volunteer in increments of two or four hour shifts but we can be flexible based upon your availability.

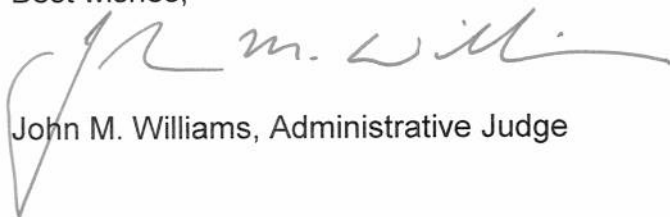
Volunteer lawyers will receive training that includes an overview of court forms, tips for assisting *pro se* litigants and access to a practitioner manual that will provide an overview of the law as well as strategies for effective representation. The first training is scheduled for September 20, 2017 at 1:00 PM at 800 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> floor.

The Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor will provide malpractice coverage for any advice you provide to individuals at the Clinic. You can also get continuing legal education credits for your service hours.

In addition to the Clinic, the Court will be opening a *Self Help Center* that will provide individuals access to computer work stations to assist with preparation and printing court forms. Written instructions will be available at each station, and individuals can solicit assistance from a clerk who will be dedicated to lend support to the *Self Help Center*. The Hamilton County Law Library will also provide self-help information on its website and is assisting the Court in developing a series of videos to assist *pro se* litigants.

I know you share my belief that efficient and effective resolution of cases positively impacts children and leads to better outcomes for families. I hope you will consider carving out a few hours of your very busy schedule to volunteer at the Clinic by assisting low income individuals who cannot afford legal services. If you are interested, please contact Shannon Brocker at 513.946.9346 or by email at [Sbrocker@juvcourt.hamilton-co.org](mailto:Sbrocker@juvcourt.hamilton-co.org). Thank you in advance for taking time to consider assisting the Court with this new and exciting opportunity.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Williams". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John M. Williams, Administrative Judge