

“Wassup” in the NDAL?

Karon O. Bowdre
Chief Judge United States District Court
Northern District of Alabama

Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association, Inc.
CLE
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THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'



RECAP OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE REFERRAL

- Regular civil cases
- Magistrate and District Judges in the draw equally
- Consent required for Magistrate Judge jurisdiction
- If no consent, promptly reassigned to district judge
- No delay with Report and Recommendations

Success of Magistrate Judge Referral

- Since February 2015, consents to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction have doubled court-wide--from 27% to 54%
- As of September 1, 2017, magistrate judges collectively assigned to 620 civil cases---have consents in 350 of those cases

Why So Successful?

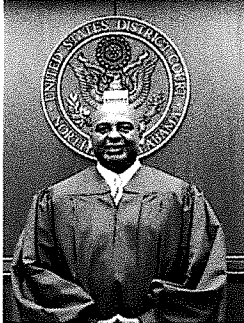
- Highly qualified Magistrate Judges
- Rigorous Merit Selection Process
- Truly Uniform Orders and Procedures
- Mediation by Magistrate Judges

NE/NW Division v. Other Divisions

- Consents in NE/NW divisions *lower* than other jury areas
- BUT hopeful consents in NE/NW divisions will increase with recent addition to the court . . .

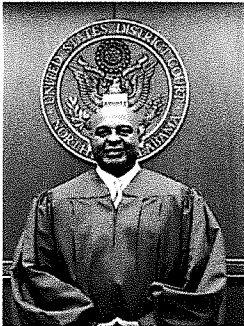
Judge Rusty Johnson

Meet Judge Rusty Johnson



- Appointed June 1, 2017
- Columbia University, JD
- Duke University, BA
- Law Clerk to Honorable Martha Craig Daughtrey, 6th Circuit
- Law Clerk to Honorable Myron H. Thompson, MDAL

Meet Judge Rusty Johnson



- Chief counsel in several class action and individual trials
- Argued several appeals before 11th Circuit
- Tenured Professor at Cumberland School of Law
 - Civil Procedure
 - Evidence
 - Federal Courts
 - Comparative Procedure
 - Complex Litigation
 - Civil Rights
 - Equitable Remedies

BUT Magistrate Judges aren't the only good news for NDAL!

New Judicial Nominees!

- Judge Smith—senior status in August 2013
- Judge Blackburn—senior status in May 2014

FINALLY have nominees to fill those vacancies!

The Nominees

Annemarie Carney Axon



Senate Judiciary Confirmation Hearings
September 20, 2017

Judge Liles Burkes



October 4, 2017

Other Changes . . .

- 3rd Year Practice Rule for Law Students

<http://www.alnd.uscourts.gov/general-order-regarding-legal-internship-law-students>

- Limited Appearance Rule

<http://www.alnd.uscourts.gov/general-order-limited-appearance>

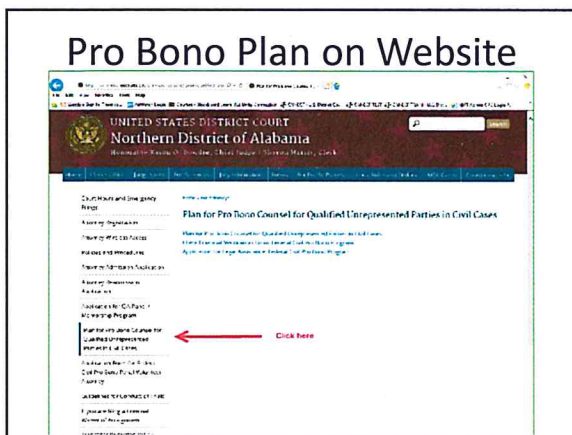
- Pro Bono Plan

<http://www.alnd.uscourts.gov/plan-pro-bono-counsel-qualified-unrepresented-parties-civil-cases>

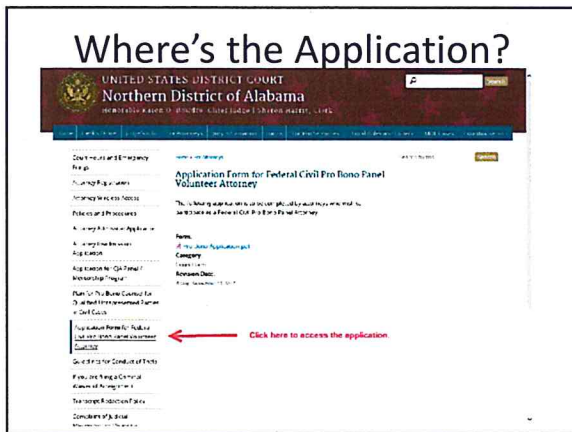
Pro Bono Publica

- Details
- Benefit for you/your firm
- Tied with Limited Appearance Rule

Pro Bono Plan on Website



Where's the Application?





OR Here Today . . .

Fill it out today and leave it
OR
Email Application to
probonoattorney@alnd.uscourts.gov
(Email address found at bottom of application)

Questions? / Comments?
