

5.15.2023-Litigation Fund Policy Amendment

1. Revising Annual Volunteer Cap:

- Volunteers are now capped at receiving a maximum of \$1,500 from the Litigation Fund annually. Up to \$1,000 can be used per year toward litigation expenses in one or more **pro bono** cases. If desired, the full cap of \$1,500 can be used to support litigation expenses in one or more **Judicare** cases.

2. New Hardship Request Process for Judicare Cases with Exceptionally High Expenses:

- A New “Hardship Request” will be available to help reimburse volunteer attorneys facing exceptionally high litigation expenses in Judicare cases of extreme hardship.
- The Hardship Request is intended to provide a mechanism for volunteer attorneys to receive reimbursement over the amount allowed by the revised attorney yearly cap (\$1,500) and/or the case lifetime cap (\$1,500) if the provider placing the Judicare case with the volunteer certifies and explains the extenuating circumstances in the case that warrant the volunteer having access to additional funds.
- All other Litigation Fund policies remain in effect. Click [here](#) to review the policy.
- To request a reimbursement from the Hardship Fund, two components are required:
 - [The standard request form](#), and
 - A written explanation describing the extenuating circumstances in the Judicare case that warrant the volunteer having access to additional funds. This can be drafted by the volunteer or provider staff, but it must be signed and submitted by provider staff via email to Liz Twigg, the Litigation Fund Administrator (ltwigg@probonomd.org).
- Hardship requests will be reviewed and distributed up to twice a year on a first come, first served basis depending on the availability of Judicare funds.
 - To be eligible for review at the mid-year, hardship requests must be received by December 10th.
 - To be eligible for review at the year-end, hardship requests must be reviewed by June 10th.
 - If, at the mid-year of the fiscal year, less than half of funds available for Judicare cases have been spent, PBRC will hold all hardship requests for review at the end of the fiscal year and defer distribution decisions until that time.
 - Approval of hardship requests is not guaranteed and remains subject to availability of funds and PBRC review.