



Combined Minority In-Court Bar Program

Regulations & Rules

The In-Court Bar Program offers a service to both the courts and the public by providing quality legal counsel at a reasonable cost to defendants who appear in court without private counsel and need an attorney.

In-Court participants are a qualified, select group of attorneys who exemplify the finest qualities of the legal profession and possess knowledge and expertise in the criminal courts.

Because of the special and unique relationship between the In-Court attorneys and the Court system, In-Court attorneys are held to the highest standards of professional conduct in accordance with the Code of Professional Responsibility of the Illinois Supreme Court. In-Court attorneys must at all times display exemplary behavior, while serving as an attorney for the In-Court program or otherwise, and always must be careful to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

Participation in the In-Court Bar Program is a privilege and not a matter of right; continued participation is contingent upon adherence to the high standards required by the Combined Minority Committee, as well as the Code of Professional Responsibility, the Rules of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and the In-Court Bar Program Regulations and Rules.

Lawyers participating in the In-Court Court Bar Program must abide by the following rules:

1. The attorney must appear promptly on dates assigned and be available for the entire court call.
2. The attorney must be willing to accept all referrals for conference without fee. If an appearance by the attorney is filed, that attorney will enter into a fee agreement with the client and is thereafter required to continue with the case to conclusion unless withdrawal is allowed by the court (representation at preliminary hearing is concluded by a finding of probable cause, no probable cause, or plea).
3. The attorney should remember that the In-Court Bar Program is designed to provide quality legal counsel to defendants who appear in court without private counsel and desire representation.

4. The attorney is required to assist the Court in making a determination of indigency at the Court's request without fee.
5. The attorney is required to pay an annual registration fee as established by the Cook County Bar Association for the In-Court Bar Program and must be a member in good standing in one of the following organizations; Cook County Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers Association, Hispanic Lawyers Association, Asian Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, or The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago.
6. The attorney is required to attend seminar(s) and training sessions held by the Cook County Bar Association.
7. The attorney is required all times while enrolled and active in the In-Court Bar Program to maintain a malpractice insurance policy that is current and in force. Copies of the renewal are to be forwarded to the Cook County Bar Association and made a part of the attorney's In-Court Bar Program File.
8. All assigned dates are made to a specific attorney and are solely that attorney's responsibility and not assignable to any other attorney outside of the Combined Minority In-Court Bar Program.
9. An assigned attorney must report to the In Court Bar Administrator any need for cancellation at least 24 hours in advance of court appearance. A conflict with a court date shall not be considered an acceptable reason for cancellation of court assignment. Sanctions may be taken against attorneys who fail to appear on assigned court dates, who cancel assignments because of court date conflicts, or who appear late in court or leave prior to the end of the court call. In the event that the assigned attorney cannot reach the ICBP Administrator, the attorney must immediately contact a member of Combined Minority In-Court Bar Program Committee.
10. Misinformation in the attorney's application for the program shall be grounds for denial of application or removal from the program.
11. **ANY** violation of the Code of Professional Responsibility of the Illinois Supreme Court or the Rules of the Circuit Court or failure to comply with any of these Regulations and Rules shall result in the removal of the attorney from the program. No In-Court attorney is permitted to initiate contact with a prospective client. Any form of solicitation is strictly prohibited. This rule will be strictly enforced.
12. All attorneys must submit: the application for participation in the In-Court Bar Program, verification of professional liability insurance coverage, ARDC card, and the requisite In-Court Bar Program annual registration fee or be automatically suspended from participation in the program.

13. Three (3) Years Legal Experience:

Exception: Attorney's who have at least two years experience that have handled over 250 criminal and traffic cases, including over 25 hearings and or trials.

14. Courtroom Experience. ICBP participants are required to have a minimum of three (3) years legal experience and the following trial experience:

- i. DUI's: 5
- ii. Felony's 5
- iii. Suspensions 15+
- iv. Misdemeanors 15+

I have read the foregoing Regulations and Rules of the Combined Minority In-Court Bar Program and agree to abide by these rules. I understand that my participation in the In-Court Bar Program is a privilege and not a matter of right and may be suspended or revoked at any time. I further agree to abide by and recognize the finality of decisions of the Combined Minority In-Court Bar Program Screening Committee.

Date

Signature