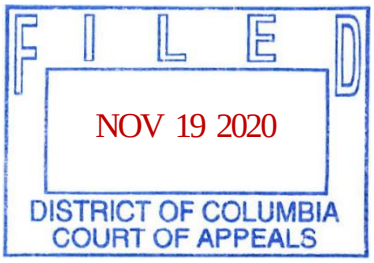
District of Columbia
Court of Appeals



BEFORE: Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge; Glickman, Thompson, Beckwith, Easterly, McLeese, and Deahl, Associate Judges.

O R D E R

(FILED – November 19, 2020)

Pursuant to D.C. App. R. 49(c)(10), the court hereby approves the following special program permitting law students in certain area law-school clinics to provide representation pro bono publico to indigent clients, including those charged or convicted of felonies, seeking relief in this court or in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia pursuant to D.C. Code §§ 24-403.03 (sentence modification), .04 (compassionate release).

This approval is subject to the following conditions. First, the representation must comply with the requirements of D.C. App. R. 48 (Legal Assistance by Law Students) and D.C. App. R. 49(c)(10), except that, to the extent authorized by this order, the representation can involve persons charged with or convicted of felonies. Second, the Chief Judges of this court and of the Superior Court shall have the authority to impose limits on the number or percentage of such cases handled pursuant to this special program.

In approving this special program, the court recognizes the increased need for representation in such cases in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The court also has relied on the representations from the deans of the law schools involved that the clinics commit to "(1) providing students with the rigorous training necessary to prepare them to provide high quality representation in these cases; (2) providing supervision as the students develop the cases; (3) clearly informing clients that the law students are not yet licensed as attorneys; and (4) ensuring that all of the students are also entitled to practice under D.C. Rule 48."

This approval applies to the following specific law-school clinics: American Univ. Washington College of Law Criminal Justice Clinic; Georgetown Law

Criminal Defense and Prisoner Advocacy Clinic; Georgetown Law Criminal Justice Clinic; Georgetown Law Juvenile Justice Clinic; George Washington Law Prisoner & Reentry Clinic; and Howard Univ. School of Law Criminal Justice Clinic.

So ordered.

PER CURIAM