

Practice Direction No. 4 of 2019 in respect of the DIFC Courts' Pro Bono Account

This Practice Direction shall come into effect from 5 March 2019. It may be cited as **Practice Direction No. 4 of 2019 — The DIFC Courts' Pro Bono Account** and may be abbreviated to **PD 4/2019**

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to the powers conferred on me by Article 8(Second)(5)(b) of Dubai Law no. 9 of 2004 as amended and according to Resolution No. (1) of 2019 In Respect of the Dispute Resolution Authority Academy, and repeals and supersedes the following:

- Practice Direction No. 4 of 2011 Pro Bono Fund;
 - Practice Direction No. 6 of 2013 DIFC Courts' Pro Bono Account; and
 - Practice Direction No. 2 of 2017 in respect of the Academy of Law's Pro Bono Account
1. This Practice Direction:
 - (a) establishes the Pro Bono Account ('the Account') referred to in Rule 38.90 for the payment into of costs received in favour of a party represented pro bono under Rules 38.89; and
 - (b) sets out the method of distributing such funds for the purposes stated under Rule 38.90 and as follows:
 - (c) Any costs payable pursuant to a Pro Bono costs order shall be paid to the Pro Bono Account for the following purposes:
 - (1) Scholarships providing financial support to students studying law in the United Arab Emirates and in need of such financial support.
 - (2) The provision of the Pro Bono Programme and Pro Bono Clinics.
 - (3) Such other purposes as the Signatories may direct or order from time to time.
 - (d) Transfers the responsibilities of the Pro Bono Account from the DRA Academy of Law to the DIFC Courts.
 2. The Account shall be administered by the signatories of the account who are Chief Justice, the Deputy Chief Justice and the Registrar in accordance with the purposes of the Account.
 3. Any individual, group or organisation may apply to the Account by way of letter stating the kind of support that is required and why to the Pro Bono Programme Leader.
 4. The application letter should state under which purpose of Rule 38.90 the application is made and a full description of the project in respect of which funding is sought. The application should also include any relevant documentation in respect of the Applicant's financial circumstances.
 5. Subsequent to an application being made the Applicant may be requested to provide further information and/or documentation if necessary.
 6. All applications will be determined by the signatories at a meeting or by circulating resolution signed / approved by all signatories. In case resolution is not reached by majority of the votes, the Chief Justice will have the casting vote.
 7. When making a decision on distribution of funds, the signatories will have an absolute discretion and the signatories do not accept any duty or liability to any individual, group or organisation seeking a distribution.
 8. All Pro Bono Programme activities that fall within the scope of this Practice Direction will be listed in available records, on the DIFC Courts' website.