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After Hours in Family Court; Volunteer Mediators Help Move Pro Se Cases

Judge Paula F. Sherlock's Tuesday evening pro se docket was featured in the Louisville Bar Briefs, the newspaper of the Louisville Bar Association, November 2007·Volume 07, No. 11.

Some attorneys, like Sandra G. Ragland with Diana L. Skaggs + Associates, show up regularly on Tuesdays. Ragland said, "It is very gratifying to help two warring parties with limited financial resources cull through all the emotions and find common ground."

"The separate pro se docket has resulted in a decrease in the number of active pro se cases in my division," said Judge Sherlock. "Because the special dockets afford pro se litigants the guidance of a skilled family law attorney who can help them understand the law and court procedures, the litigants generally reach agreement on all outstanding issues and do not have to keep returning to court. The litigants are very appreciative that these lawyers are volunteering their time and expertise. Just last Tuesday night when a party learned that the mediator was volunteering his time, they said they guessed there some good lawyers around after all. This has been a great opportunity for the Bar to promote goodwill in the Louisville community."