

The Central District of Illinois is recruiting pro bono counsel for plaintiff Wayne Patterson II for the limited purpose of summary judgment. We are contacting you in hopes that you may be willing to represent Plaintiff Patterson in this regard. Below is a case summary of Mr. Patterson's case. I am also attaching the Recruitment of Counsel for Indigent Parties in Certain Civil Cases for your use in determining whether you would be willing to accept pro bono appointment.

Case Summary: Patterson v Sandage 20-1073 - Plaintiff Wayne Patterson II filed this racial discrimination case against the McLean County Sheriff, Jon Sandage, and five individual police officers. In February 2019, Patterson was living with two white, female roommates, one of whom owned the residence. The owner's stepfather discovered a gun and ammunition under a bed. The stepfather alerted the McLean County Sheriff's Department, which determined no one at the residence had a Firearm Owner Identification (FOID) card. Deputies arrived and questioned Patterson and his roommates. Both of Patterson's white roommates admitted there was a gun and ammo in the residence. Patterson was arrested, but neither of his white, female peers were. Patterson was charged with possession of stolen property and possession of a firearm without an FOID card. On September 26, 2019, Patterson pled guilty to possession of a firearm without a FOID card and was sentenced to eighteen (18) months of court supervision. Patterson is proceeding on a Title VI claim for the discriminatory arrest of Plaintiff. Parties have been encouraged to file cross-motions for summary judgment. Accordingly, the Court is seeking pro bono counsel for Plaintiff for the limited purpose of summary judgment.

Please contact Chief Deputy Marleen Cooke at 217-492-5204 for further details if interested.