

DAP Experience Policy

All attorneys staffing the DAP should have at least 3 years of bankruptcy experience, ideally representing consumer debtors. Training will be made available to experienced creditor and business bankruptcy attorneys, who have 3 years or more experience but are not current on the law applicable to consumer debtors.

Attorneys with little to no bankruptcy experience will be provided the opportunity to attend the training developed for non-consumer debtor attorneys. Additionally, they will be permitted to staff the DAP conditional on the presence of a qualified mentor. A qualified mentor is any attorney meeting the standard 3 year experience requirement, who has registered to serve as a DAP volunteer.

If an attorney volunteer with less than 3 years of experience wishes to staff the DAP without a mentor, a bankruptcy judge may waive the 3 year experience requirement. The decision may be based on personal experience with the attorney, discussions with past mentors (if any), the number of cases the attorney has handled, the quality of work of the attorney, completion of bankruptcy-related training, and any other factors the judge finds relevant in assessing the attorney's ability to provide sound legal advice while staffing the DAP.

To request an experience waiver, please complete the DAP volunteer registration form, located under Court Information on the Court's website – www.mdb.uscourts.gov, and forward your resume to probono@mdb.uscourts.gov. If a waiver of the experience requirement is made, documentation of the waiver will be forwarded to the DAP's malpractice carrier for their records.

Note: In addition to meeting (or receiving a waiver of) the experience requirement, a DAP volunteer must also be a member in good standing of the Maryland Bar and admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. If any of these requirements are not met or cause is given to disqualify a volunteer from participation, a volunteer will be notified of the circumstance and informed of what is needed to qualify them for participation in the future.



U.S.B.C. December, 2011