

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

WESLEY ALLEN LEWIS,
Appellant,
vs.
MARIA DANIELA LEWIS A/K/A MARIA
DANIELA PERDOMO,
Respondent.

No. 66497

FILED

MAR 06 2015

TRACIE K. LINDEMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY S. Young
DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER REGARDING PRO BONO COUNSEL

This is a pro se appeal from a district court order modifying custody and child support and visitation. Appellant is proceeding without legal representation in this appeal and has filed a motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis and for waiver of transcript costs. Having considered the record and the civil pro se appeal statement filed by appellant, this court has determined that the appointment of pro bono counsel to represent appellant would assist this court in reviewing this appeal. By this order, the court expresses no opinion as to the merits of this appeal.

Pro bono counsel is an attorney who provides legal services without charge for the benefit of the public good. The appointment of pro bono counsel provides attorneys with an opportunity to volunteer legal services in furtherance of their professional responsibility and, at the same time, allows financially eligible litigants access to quality legal representation without cost. Counsel will be appointed for purposes of this appeal only and will participate in oral argument. Currently, the Pro Bono Committee of the Appellate Litigation Section of the State Bar of Nevada (Pro Bono Committee), in conjunction with the Legal Aid Center of

Southern Nevada, has developed a pro bono appellate program to assist the public and this court. This case is hereby referred to the program established by the Pro Bono Committee to evaluate whether appellant can benefit from the program.

Accordingly, we direct the clerk of this court to transmit a copy of this order and the attached case summary to the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for financial eligibility screening. If appellant qualifies and does not object to pro bono counsel, the Legal Aid Center in cooperation with the Pro Bono Committee shall locate a volunteer attorney from the program to represent appellant. Once an attorney is located, the attorney shall file a notice of appearance in this court within 60 days from the date of this order. Supplemental briefing and oral argument will be scheduled thereafter. Alternatively, if appellant is not financially eligible or objects to pro bono representation, or if a volunteer attorney cannot be located, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada shall notify this court in writing within 60 days from the date of this order. In such case, oral argument will not be held, and this matter will stand submitted for decision on the appeal statement and record currently before the court. See NRAP 34(f)(3).

It is so ORDERED.¹

1. J. J. J. J. C.J.

¹We defer ruling on appellant's motions pending the evaluation for and possible appointment of pro bono counsel.

cc: Wesley Allen Lewis
Fine Law Group
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Barbara E. Buckley,
Executive Director
Anne R. Traum, Coordinator, Appellate Litigation Section,
Pro Bono Committee, State Bar of Nevada

No. 66497, Lewis v. Lewis

This is a pro se appeal from a district court order modifying custody of the couple's child. The parties initially had joint legal and physical custody, with appellant paying spousal and child support. Subsequent litigation through counsel ensued over the appellant's compliance with the divorce decree and his ability to meet the child support obligations. In the instant underlying proceedings, respondent moved to change physical custody, to enforce the divorce decree and for attorney fees. Appellant, proceeding in pro se, responded and counterclaimed for contempt and fees. The district court granted respondent relief, and appellant appeals.

Appellant is proceeding in forma pauperis, and alleges judicial bias and error by the district court in its award of his child support obligation under his financial circumstances.