**YOUR ROLE AS A *PRO BONO* ATTORNEY FOR SCP**

We are incredibly grateful that you have agreed to represent a client though the Seattle Clemency Project ("SCP") on a volunteer basis. Our mission is to match deserving clients with volunteer attorneys who can advocate for their or early release. We believe you will find this to be a very fulfilling experience.

Clemency and Pardon is a remedy of last resort that is available only after a sentence has been imposed and all appeals have been exhausted. It is the client's last chance for a second chance. SCP *pro bono* attorneys have changed the lives of their clients and the families that have been supporting them. Through dedicated and tenacious advocacy, SPC *pro bono* attorneysachieve the release of incarcerated individuals who have demonstrated rehabilitation and the ability to be productive members of society. In doing so, they reunite these individuals with their families and communities, and they also save countless tax dollars that are needlessly spent on aging and elderly prisoners.

Your Relationship with SCP

You are the attorney of record on the case and assume full responsibility for the case.

SCP is available to consult with you, offer advice, point you to resources and help you evaluate whether your case is one in which a petition should be filed.

SCP is available to consult on how to defray costs on the case. At this time, SCP does not have the budget to help volunteer attorneys pay for costs associated with the representation such as costs to obtain records and travel expenses. This may change as the organization grows.

SCP is available to discuss resources that may bolster your client’s release plan.

SCP is available to provide review of draft petitions of volunteer lawyers who have not filed a petition before.

SCP may pair first-time volunteer lawyers with more experienced lawyers who have gone through the process before to offer additional support and guidance.

Extent of Your Representation

The extent of your representation will vary with each case. All cases will involve gathering information about the client and speaking with the client and conferring with SCP about whether to file a petition on the client's behalf. In some cases, you may determine that no petition should be filed at this time. In other cases, a petition will be filed but no hearing will be granted. In yet other cases, a hearing before the Clemency and Pardons Board will be granted and you will represent the client at that hearing. Finally, it may be appropriate in some cases to advocate for the client with the Governor's office after the Board votes and the case goes to the Governor for consideration.

You should execute an agreement with the client to clarify the extent of your representation. We have provided a sample agreement for you to use in drafting an agreement for your case. Please consider what arrangements will be made for the client's continued representation if you cannot finish the case and provide for that in your agreement with the client.

Being Clear with the Client About Result and Termination of Representation

As discussed above, the extent of the representation of SCP clients may differ with each case, though the typical case does result in the filing of a petition. Please communicate clearly with your client about the result of the representation and when the representation has terminated. For example, if you and SCP decide the client needs to wait two more years before filing a petition and must fulfill certain requirements in those two years, write a letter to the client indicating the decision and what the client must do over the next two years in order to be reconsidered for representation. If you have filed a petition for a hearing and no hearing was granted, please communicate this to the client. If you represent a client at a hearing before the Clemency and Pardons Board, please send your client a letter summarizing the results of the hearing and whether or not you will stay involved in the case as the Governor considers the recommendation of the Board, if the recommendation is for release.