

Federal I.D. Number in Lieu of Pro Hac Vice

One of our clients located in California has been sued in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. The plaintiff's lawyer is a California-barred lawyer. However, rather than obtain pro hac vice admission to the Southern District of Texas for this case, the complaint indicates that the California lawyer has a "Federal ID No" (the caption says "(Federal ID No. _____ next to the lawyer's name). I've never seen this before - does anyone know what this is?

It means that the lawyer has been admitted to practice before the federal courts within the Southern District of Texas (as to being admitted pro hac).

Walter D. James III, Texas

Thanks. I've never seen that procedure before. I've handled cases in federal courts throughout the US and have always had to get pro hac vice admission where I was not admitted to the state bar of the state where the federal court was located.

Gregory P. Goonan, California

There are a number of Federal District Court jurisdictions that do not require membership in the home state's bar just membership in a state bar (or SCOTUS admission). The two federal districts in Indiana two that come to mind... but it's my understanding they will issue a distinct district court bar id for filing if the attorney does not have a Bar Id Number

Jim Bowman

Thanks. I did not know that, learn something new every day!

Gregory P. Goonan

Jim is exactly right. The Northern District of Texas, the Southern District of Ohio and (I believe) the Northern District of Illinois do this as well.

Matthew J. Norris, California