

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

Lucas B. Stone, et al., :  
Plaintiffs, :  
 : Case No. 3:04cv18 (JBA)  
v. :  
 :  
Town of Westport, et al., :  
Defendants. :

**RULING ON MOTION TO WITHDRAW APPEARANCE AND MOTION REQUESTING PRO  
BONO ASSISTANCE WITH PRO SE REPRESENTATION [DOCS. ## 64,68]**

Plaintiffs' attorneys requested permission to withdraw their appearances [Doc. # 64], which motion the Court took under advisement to give plaintiffs the opportunity to engage successor counsel or to file appearances on their own behalf (see [Doc. # 65]). As plaintiffs have now filed pro se appearances, the Court grants the Motion to Withdraw.

Subsequent to filing their pro se appearances, plaintiffs filed a motion seeking appointment of pro bono counsel to assist with their representation [Doc. # 68]. For the reasons that follow, this motion will be denied.

The Second Circuit has repeatedly cautioned district courts against the routine appointment of counsel. See, e.g., Hendricks v. Coughlin, 114 F.3d 390, 392-93 (2d Cir. 1997). In deciding whether to appoint counsel, the district court "should first determine whether the indigent's position seems likely to be of substance." Hodge v. Police Officers, 802 F.2d 58, 61 (2d Cir. 1986). The Second Circuit has emphasized the importance of

