

PRO BONO AT NEW JERSEY LEGAL SERVICES

Support and Incentives we Provide

- Legal Services of New Jersey is an Accredited Service Provider for NJ Continuing Legal Education (NJCLE) courses. We provide substantive trainings all year long for which attorneys can get NJ CLE credits.
- Initial intake; screening for merit and financial eligibility to ensure the cases we refer fall within established case parameters
- Mentorship: Experienced Legal Services attorneys are available to answer substantive and procedural questions and provide guidance on cases we refer.
- Office space to interview clients if needed.
- Opportunities to shadow/observe our attorneys in court.
- Malpractice coverage for our referrals if needed.
- Automatic filing fee waiver for all Legal Services cases in state court proceedings.
- Madden exemption: NJ-admitted attorneys who provide 25 hours of *pro bono* services to Legal Services-referred clients are exempt from court-mandated assignments the following year. This provides them the opportunity to work in areas of law they have an interest or knowledge in rather than an arbitrary assignment.
- Under a special court rule, attorneys admitted out of state or in-house counsel with limited licenses can accept cases referred by Legal Services. Legal Services of New Jersey administers the paperwork.

Statewide Panels

Attorneys can volunteer with Legal Services of New Jersey on one of our statewide panels and/or with one of our six regional Legal Services programs.

Getting Started

- You can sign up with Legal Services' *pro bono* program by clicking "Sign up Now" at **www.ProBonoNJ.org** and indicating your substantive and geographic interests on the registration form.
- You will then be added to our electronic mailing list to which we circulate lists of available cases and *pro bono* training announcements. You can volunteer to take cases that match your interests.
- While the greatest need is for direct representation in bankruptcy and family law cases, opportunities in other areas, such as foreclosure defense, domestic violence, and immigration, are also available.

Litigation Opportunities

Legal Services' *pro bono* program offers attorneys the opportunity to gain valuable litigation experience and improve oral and written advocacy skills, while at the same time assisting low-income people in New Jersey who might otherwise go unrepresented.

Non-Litigation Opportunities

In addition to or in lieu of litigation, attorneys can also volunteer to provide:

- Consultation
- Mentorship
- Trainings
- Research
- Assistance in our recruitment efforts