

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY OFFERS FORECLOSURE DEFENSE TRAINING SEMINAR FOR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS**

EDISON – In response to the continuing foreclosure crisis in New Jersey, Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), in conjunction with the Passaic County Bar Association, is offering a training seminar for attorneys willing to accept at least one *pro bono* case from Legal Services. The training will take place on Tuesday, November 30, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Arbitration Room at 77 Hamilton Street in Paterson. Participants can earn up to four and a half CLE credits for the training. There is no fee for attending; costs are being underwritten by the Hackensack firm Nowell Amoroso Klein Bierman, PA. Space is limited and registration is required, which can be done online at [www.ProBonoNJ.org](http://www.ProBonoNJ.org) or by contacting Anu Gurnani by email at [probono@lsnj.org](mailto:probono@lsnj.org).

According to Peggy Jurow, senior attorney for LSNJ's Anti-Predatory Lending Project, "Amid recent developments about improper foreclosure practices, such as those involving false documents or 'robo-signers,' which have prompted the mortgage servicing arms of major financial institutions to temporarily freeze millions of foreclosures, we find ourselves at a critical juncture. Now more than ever, New Jersey's indigent homeowners require competent legal representation to assist them in

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affirmatively contesting the foreclosures filed on their homes.” In 2009, foreclosure complaints in Passaic County totaled 4,113. And, according to a report released in July by the New Jersey State Judiciary, foreclosure filings have doubled in the last year.

The training seminar will prepare volunteer lawyers to represent low-income homeowners facing foreclosure, or who may be at an increased risk of foreclosure because they were deceived or treated unfairly by a mortgage broker, lender or servicer. Topics will include the foreclosure procedure; procedural and substantive defenses; alternatives to foreclosure; mediation; and bankruptcy in the foreclosure process. Training faculty will be Jurow, Rebecca Schore and Engy Abdelkader of LSNJ’s Anti-Predatory Lending Project, and Bruce Levitt of the South Orange firm Levitt & Slafkes.

LSNJ’s *pro bono* program provides on-going support and assistance, as well as malpractice insurance. All court fees are automatically waived, and all hours dedicated to *pro bono* cases for Legal Services are eligible for the *Madden* exemption.

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