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**LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY OFFERING SPECIAL HOTLINE HELP FOR
RESIDENTS FACING LOSSES FROM HURRICANE IDA'S DEVASTATION**

EDISON —With the deadline for getting crucial federal aid only just days away, survivors of Hurricane Ida are being urged to quickly contact Legal Services of New Jersey's toll free hotline that provides direct legal assistance to lower-income New Jerseyans with civil legal problems related to the devastating hurricane.

November 4 is the deadline for those affected by Hurricane Ida in 12 New Jersey counties to file a claim and receive help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Individuals can apply for FEMA assistance online at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

The toll free LSNJLAWSM Hotline provides direct legal assistance to lower-income New Jersey residents with civil legal problems related to Hurricane Ida. The Hurricane Ida Hotline can be reached through the LSNJLAWSM website, www.lsnjlawhotline.org anytime, seven days per week.

LSNJ President Dawn K. Miller emphasizes that seeking help from the LSNJLAWSM Hotline is crucial.

“There is a very wide range of civil legal issues caused by Ida and many of these will be ongoing problems for years. Immediate legal assistance is critical because all in need face a hard FEMA filing deadline of November 4, and most people need legal advice *before* they apply to FEMA,” she notes.

“However, we are informed by previous experience in other disasters, such as Hurricanes Irene, Floyd, and Sandy, that the need for advice and legal representation can last for years and new issues will arise in the future. LSNJ is committed to being part of the long-term recovery process.”

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, is the coordinating office for the state's system of Legal Services programs, which provide essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people in all of the state's 21 counties. LSNJ is a partner with the American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, and the New Jersey State Bar Association in providing disaster-related legal assistance to lower-income New Jersey residents.

In addition to the statewide Hurricane Ida Hotline, which is run through its Edison office, LSNJ has coordinated with the regional programs in the counties most affected by Hurricane Ida to provide community education, legal information, advice, and representation to Hurricane Ida survivors and will have a presence at numerous FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) in these hard-hit areas. LSNJ will continue to be present in communities and neighborhoods, working with its long-established local agencies and partners, and providing updates through its community legal education website www.lsnjlaw.com and various social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

In addition to providing individual representation, LSNJ will compile information and data on patterns of problems, the effectiveness of responses, and the adequacy of long-term recovery planning, especially affordable housing. LSNJ will build a panel of pro bono attorneys to support this effort, and will provide training and other support services to private attorneys who sign up and agree to take a case. Interested attorneys can learn more about the effort and related training events at www.probononj.org.

According to Maryann Flanigan, LSNJ Director of Disaster Assistance, "The issues LSNJ is typically seeing are securing FEMA and other related assistance, defending evictions and foreclosures, other landlord-tenant issues, insurance claims and denials, unemployment insurance, protecting against discrimination, and many other issues."

LSNJ has operated a statewide legal Hotline for nearly 25 years, which provides legal advice and representation to low income people in civil legal matters. The Hotline is best reached any day of the week, 24 hours a day, online at www.lsnjlawhotline.org. LSNJ also maintains publicly accessible websites where the general public can learn more about Legal Services and its work, and get information

on a wide variety of legal issues: www.lsnj.org and www.lsnjlaw.org. The LSNJLAWSM Hotline can also be reached Monday through Friday at 1-888-576-5529, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5:30 pm.