

About Legal Services of New Jersey



Since 1966

Statewide Program
Legal Services of New Jersey



Regional Programs

Central Jersey Legal Services
Essex-Newark Legal Services
Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
South Jersey Legal Services



Legal Services of New Jersey is the coordinating body of the statewide system to provide free civil legal assistance. There is no right to an attorney in most civil legal matters and we need your help to ensure the promise of equal access to justice for those who cannot afford an attorney.

Websites

www.PROBONONJ.org – Learn about and register for pro bono opportunities.

www.LSNJ.org – Learn about the work of Legal Services, legal developments, ways to get involved, and upcoming events.

www.LSNJLAW.org – Access legal information and materials about civil legal practice areas.

www.NJEJLA.org – An educational resource, the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive includes a history of Legal Services in New Jersey, interviews with current and former staff, and tributes to major contributors to social justice.



Pro Bono

at Legal Services of New Jersey



What We Offer

LSNJ will train your pro bono volunteers, pre-screen potential clients for financial and substantive eligibility, and refer cases to your volunteers. A designated program coordinator will communicate directly with pro bono volunteers and offer assistance as needed. An MOU specifically drafted for your firm will cover this process and will include:

- Access to LSNJ's CLE-accredited pro bono training, provided by LSNJ expert trainers.
- Malpractice insurance.
- Trainings crafted to fit your firm's needs (depending on number involved).
- Pre-screening of clients on merit and substantive areas.
- Ongoing mentorship and support.

To discuss a potential pro bono partnership,
email probono@lsnj.org.

Visit probnonj.org to sign up and learn more about LSNJ's pro bono opportunities.

Scan the QR code to learn more or sign up.



What Other Pro Bono Volunteers Have Said

"To me, maintaining a strong pro bono practice is more than a professional responsibility; it is essential to how I have chosen to live my life—with intention, grace, and a strong desire to give back to the most vulnerable members of society."

– Rachita Bhatt
Bristol Myers Squibb

"From a personal and professional development perspective, it can be tremendously valuable."

– Abdul Rehman Khan
McCarter & English, LLP

"In terms of skills development there can be nothing better than this."

– Kenneth F. Coughlin
Retired Senior Vice President of Law
Sony Electronics
Associate Professor of Law,
Pace University

"Get involved! . . . It selfishly feels good and it's a great thing to do for your community."

– Jill Swogier
Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi



Pro Bono at Legal Services of New Jersey

At the core of pro bono is a commitment to the “public good,” the promise built into the legal profession to help strengthen our communities, by providing assistance to those who could not otherwise afford it. Pro bono work also provides numerous benefits to the attorney, such as building new skills and providing exposure to different areas of law. Most importantly, through pro bono work, an attorney helps close the ongoing justice gap for the most vulnerable populations in the state by providing legal assistance to those who cannot afford to pay an attorney.

The Benefits of Pro Bono

A pro bono partnership with LSNJ offers your firm and your attorneys a substantive and ongoing framework in which to reap all the benefits of pro bono work, through the following activities.

- **Change someone’s life:** Be part of a broader access to equal justice movement.
- **Professional development:** Pro bono work offers opportunities to learn a new area of the law or sharpen existing skills.
- **Networking opportunities with other service-minded professionals:** Pro bono partners are invited to LSNJ’s Equal Justice Awards Reception, our annual statewide event that features Circle of Honor inductees.
- **Recognition opportunities:** Acknowledgement in social media posts, our *Poverty to Justice* quarterly newsletter, and our websites; and the opportunity for recognition as a Volunteer of the Month and as an Equal Justice Medal of Honor recipient.
- **Madden exemption:** Volunteer attorneys who provide free legal assistance and perform a minimum of 25 hours of pro bono service may be exempt from court-appointed pro bono assignments.
- **Mentorship:** Informal guidance and consultation in areas of LSNJ practice with subject matter experts.
- **Automatic membership in LSNJ’s Emerging Leaders Academy** for new lawyers and associates.

LSNJ has pro bono opportunities in every civil legal practice area, with a focus on

Domestic Violence ■ Income Tax ■ Immigration ■ Bankruptcy ■ Guardianships ■ Expungement and Reentry ■ Education