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FOR RELEASE AT WILL

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**LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY SPEARHEADS NAME CHANGE CLINIC FOR
TRANSGENDER AND NON-BINARY INDIVIDUALS**

EDISON — Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) is one of the major movers of a new program making it easier for transgender and non-binary residents to change their legal names.

The joint effort by LSNJ and RWJBarnabas Health in creating the Name Change Clinic underscores the importance of having officially correct name identification for requirements of daily living such as licenses, State IDs, job and housing applications, public benefits requests, and more.

Citing such examples, LSNJ Chief Attorney for the Legal Assistance to Medical Patients (LAMP) Project Richard J. Routh notes some people “who do not have identification documents that match their preferred names and gender identity may avoid participating in these activities of daily life for fear of being outed as transgender and exposed to discrimination. LSNJ believes the Name Change Clinic is an important step in making the name affirmation process easier to navigate.”

David A. Mebane, RWJBarnabas Health general counsel and executive vice president, points out the clinic represents “our ongoing commitment to providing essential support to the LGBTQ+ community.”

The service is free for income-eligible participants.

For more information or to schedule appointments, visit www.rwjbh.org/namechangeclinic, or email NameChangeClinic@RWJBH.org or call 973-322-9824.

LSNJ joined in the formation of the Name Change Clinic as part of the lawyer organization's long-standing role in providing free legal assistance for low-income residents facing civil legal problems. That role spans issues involving poverty, housing, consumer, employment, immigration, and governmental benefits, among other civil legal issues.

RWJBarnabas Health is the largest academic health care system in the state.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six independent nonprofit corporations that provides free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people in all 21 counties.

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