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**LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS POCKETBOOK ISSUES,
ESPECIALLY FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME RESIDENTS**

EDISON — Key pocketbook issues that especially affect low- and moderate-income New Jerseyans are the focal points of the latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ).

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” may be viewed online at www.lsnjlaw.org/media-center/publications.

The newsletter offers separate articles on the state’s minimum wage law, unemployment benefits, and property tax relief programs.

In January the minimum hourly wage went to \$15.92 for most people, and will continue to increase in future years. There are separate minimum wage calculations for agricultural workers, employees with small firms, workers who receive part of their earnings from tips, and others employed at long-term care facilities.

Unemployment benefits are determined by amount of earnings tied to what’s known as “base year” calculations. To be eligible people must have earned at least \$15,500 in their base year, or at least \$310 per week in their base year. People who have their application for benefits rejected have 21 days to appeal.

The newsletter cites the state’s three major property tax relief programs for eligible homeowners and renters, noting an application for the programs—ANCHOR, senior property tax freeze, and Stay NJ—must be filed by November 2. A state booklet, known as PAS-1, serves as a single application for all three programs. The Stay NJ program will be continued only if funding for it is included in next year’s state budget.

The publication also includes an article spelling out what steps victims of domestic violence can take to potentially reverse an initial court decision denying a final restraining order.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, provides free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people.