

Pro Bono Opportunities
NJSBA Web Posting Form

A. Contact Information

Organization Name: Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ) Contact Name: Karen Sacks, Esq.
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Organization Information

1. In a few sentences state the overall mission of your organization.

VLJ's mission is to increase the level of the legal services being provided to the indigent population of New Jersey. VLJ accomplishes this mission by enlisting the help of volunteer attorneys who volunteer their time on a pro bono basis. VLJ volunteers service clients through direct representation, pro se clinics and educational seminars in the areas of housing, family, consumer and education law. All cases are screened for eligibility and legal merit.

2. Are you a 501 (c) (3) organization? Yes. No. If not, how would you classify your organization?

3. Please use the boxes (check as many as apply) and lines below to identify and briefly describe the population(s) for which your organization provides services. Be sure to include information on characteristics such as age, disability or income, that might be used in establishing eligibility for your services.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Elderly | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children/Families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low-income generally | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants | |

Eligibility requirements: **Clients must live or have matters being heard in Essex County. VLJ accepts cases statewide in the area of education law. Clients must also meet the financial eligibility requirements of the program-generally under 175% of the federal guidelines.**

4. Has the New Jersey Supreme Court approved your program for a Madden exemption?
 Yes No.

5. Service area:

Statewide – **for Education law cases and for assistance for 9/11 victims and their families**

If yes, please describe: VLJ sponsors training sessions by experienced attorneys in all areas of law in which it refers cases. The trainings are free of charge provided attorneys agree to provide 25 hours of pro bono assistance on behalf of VLJ. Videotapes of the training sessions are available free of charge to all those providing services to a VLJ client.

9. Does your organization provide other types of support? If yes, please explain.

Litigation supports Yes No VLJ covers some litigation costs.

Fee waivers Yes No Court costs are automatically waived for clients of VLJ pursuant to a Supreme Court order. Other court costs may be covered by VLJ.

Translators Yes No

Other Yes No Model forms, research, mentors, other litigation services such as experts, court reporters, etc.

10. What, if any, supervision does your organization provide for volunteer attorneys?

Mentoring and back-up assistance by volunteer attorneys. VLJ requires status reports and closing forms and makes regular follow-up calls to volunteers.

11. Does your organization provide malpractice coverage for volunteer attorneys?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

NLADA coverage for all attorneys not covered by their own policy.

12. Does your organization require volunteer attorneys to carry malpractice insurance?

Yes No

If yes, please explain. They may be covered under our policy if they do not have their own.