



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
8 Wood Hollow Road
Suite 203
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Dear Congresswoman Sherrill:

We are grateful for your commitment to expanding access to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) created by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to include 501(c)(5) and (c)(6) organizations. As a 501(c)(6), the New Jersey State Bar Association is feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the Association continues to provide crucial information to our members and to the community at-large because our mission does not change – even during a pandemic.

In addition to offering myriad of informational and educational programs to assist our members to meet their continuing obligation to provide zealous representation of their clients while adhering to their strict ethical requirements, the NJSBA has launched NJ FreeLegalAnswers to respond to questions from the public as they try to navigate through COVID-19 issues. This resource allows low- and middle-income individuals to ask a licensed New Jersey attorney for information on legal issues related to COVID-19. The NJSBA has enlisted a cadre of licensed New Jersey attorneys to participate in this endeavor on a volunteer basis. This is because NJSBA's mission includes not just the encouragement of participation in pro bono service, but also the promotion of access to the justice system.

This is just another example of what associations such as ours offers to New Jersey's residents. None of this would be possible without the support of its members. But the NJSBA cannot wholly rely on membership when themselves, are facing economic and emotional hardship in the face of this pandemic.

The NJSBA is facing a significant economic deficit as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It continues to forge forward, but it is not without its difficulties. With the cancellation of programs, seminars and events, and the questionable ability of members to continue to pay their dues, the NJSBA's economic resources are limited. We urge you to continue to fight for the expansion of access to the PPP. As we await the next wave of stimulus relief, we are hopeful that the force of your leadership will prevail and we have access to the much-needed fuel to allow associations such as ours to bridge this difficult time for the residents of New Jersey that we serve.

In the meantime, the NJSBA continues to produce educational and informational webinars and programs remotely to ensure that attorneys are up to speed on the most recent legal developments; make available important support services to assist our members through mental health difficulties; and, to advocate on behalf of members, the profession at large, and the public. We continue to fight for your constituents and we urge you to continue to fight for associations like ours. Thank you for your continued leadership.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evelyn Padin".

Evelyn Padin, Esq.
President