

PAI Registration Form

- Please let us know how many pro bono civil legal matters you will accept from the Legal Aid Society per year (Please check one.)
 - 1 case/year
 - 2-5 cases/year
 - 6-10 cases/year
 - Over 10 cases/year
- In which areas of law will you agree to accept referrals? (Check all that apply)
 - ANY AREA
 - Support
 - Divorce
 - Evictions
 - Bankruptcy
 - Visitation
 - Separation Agreements
 - Foreclosure
 - Consumer
 - UIB
 - Health
 - SSI
 - Employment (Other than UIB)
 - Medicaid
 - Health care proxies
 - Wills/Estates
 - Education
 - Medicare
 - Family
 - Domestic Violence
 - Housing (Other than eviction)
 - Incorporation
 - Custody
- Other (Specify): _____
- Listed below are the counties that we serve. Please check the counties from which you can accept referrals. (Check all that apply.)
 - Albany
 - Clinton
 - Columbia
 - Essex
 - Franklin
 - Fulton
 - Greene
 - Hamilton
 - Montgomery
 - Rensselaer
 - Saratoga
 - Schenectady
 - Schoharie
 - St. Lawrence
 - Warren
 - Washington
- Do you speak a language other than English? Yes No
If so, what language(s): _____
- How many years have you practiced? _____ years
- Practice setting:
 - 6-10 attorney firm
 - Government
 - Sole practitioner
 - 11-25 attorney firm
 - Corporation/business
 - 2-5 attorney firm
 - Over 25 attorney firm
 - Retired
 - Other (specify) _____
- LAS, in addition to paying for out-of-pocket expenses for referred cases, provides other assistance to its pro bono volunteers, including a Certificate of Indigence and professional liability insurance secondary to any malpractice insurance you may have. Please let us know if you are interested in the following assistance:
 - CLE as authorized by OCA rules
 - Training (Specify area(s)): _____
 - Use of LAS law library
 - Co-counseling with experienced LAS attorneys
 - Consultation with LAS legal staff
 - Access to LAS pleadings/form files/brief bank
 - Case law updates (specify areas): _____
 - "How-to" forms and materials (specify areas): _____
- Legal Aid would welcome your help in other ways besides accepting referral of cases. In which other ways can you help?
 - Recruit other pro bono attorneys
 - Educate poor people on their rights and responsibilities
 - Mentor a less experienced attorney
 - Assist with Pro Se Clinics
 - Train LAS staff or other private attorneys (Specify area of law or skill): _____
 - Advise LAS staff regarding the handling of cases (Specify areas): _____
 - Assist in the creation of community legal education materials or training materials.

About the Legal Aid Society

Our Mission

The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York provides effective, free civil legal services and education to and advocacy for people with low income or other barriers to accessing the legal system. We secure basic needs, protect and preserve legal rights, provide equal access to justice and seek fairness and dignity for our clients.

To donate, contact Deanne Grimaldi at (518) 689-6336.

JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

For more information, or to make a donation, visit us at

www.lasnny.org

Legal Aid Society
of Northeastern New York
55 Colvin Avenue, Albany NY 12206
(518) 462-6765 or 1-800-462-2922

Funding:

The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York is funded by grants from the Legal Services Corporation, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of the State of New York, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, New York State Legislature, NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, NYS Department of Health, NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, Albany County Department for Aging, Fulton County Office for Aging, St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging, Washington County Office for the Aging, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging, City of Saratoga Springs, City of Albany, Bank of America as trustee for the Frederick McDonald Trust, New York State Bar Foundation, United Way of the Greater Capital Region, Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Albany Law School, Nutrition Consortium of the State of New York, Bank of America, The Community Foundation for the Capital Region's Sara Huntington Catlin Memorial Fund, Greenberg Traurig Fellowship Foundation, Assemblyman Robert Reilly Salary Fund, Equal Justice Works, NYS Unified Court System, Office of Court Administration, Law Firms and private contributors through the Justice for All Campaign.

You can help.

An Opportunity to
**Make a
Difference**



**Private Attorney
Involvement
Program
(PAI)**

LAS
NNY

**Legal Aid
Society**
of Northeastern
New York, Inc.

Fighting for **Fairness**
Promoting **Justice**

A Rewarding and Fulfilling Journey

“Pro Bono Opportunities”...

You hear that phrase all the time. There is a reason why we refer to volunteering as an “opportunity”—volunteering allows the chance for access to justice for all. Lawyers are the only people who can ensure that justice is done for all that deserve it.

The need for legal services far outweighs attorney resources, especially for those who come to The Legal Aid Society. Usually, we—YOU—are their only chance at ensuring their legal interests are protected and they receive a fair and just outcome—something everyone deserves. The PAI program facilitates this.

This is the first time something right came out of a bad situation and I’m convinced it went my way because he was in my corner. It’s people like him that make the world a better place.

—Karen D.

How does the referral process work?

Our staff initially reviews the client’s legal issue and decides if it warrants a referral. If it does, that is when we contact you. First, to make sure you are available, and second, to make sure you are interested in the legal issue. If you agree to take a case, we will send you a referral letter and any pertinent documents in our file. We then ask that the client make the initial move, and call your office.

What volunteer opportunities exist?

Do you enjoy negotiating or litigating? You could help a client keep his apartment or obtain social security or unemployment benefits. Rather not spend your time in Court? We have many clients who need transactional help, such as preparing a will, health care proxy or deed. We also have clients who need someone to act on their behalf to lift or modify a wage garnishment or take care of a frozen bank account. Of course, there is always the need for a bankruptcy attorney.

Don’t want to handle case files?

You may help out at one of our pro se divorce clinics or advice clinics. If you would like, you could be a mentor. The legal issues of our clients are diverse, which allows us to refer cases that fit your experience and desire.

“Everyone should do their fair share of pro bono...there are only so many staff attorneys that Legal Aid can provide. We should step up and help out.

—Alan LeCours

Benefits

The Legal Aid Society offers numerous benefits to our PAI volunteer lawyers, which include:

- CLE credit (one credit for every 5 hours spent on a pro bono matter)
- Training Programs at no cost and for CLE credit
- Malpractice insurance (secondary)
- Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses (up to \$200 no approval required)
- Provide Certification of Indigency to cover cost of filing fees for qualifying clients
- Access to Westlaw via our PAI Paralegal
- “FREE PASS” (law students to provide free legal research)

The greatest benefit is knowing that you made a difference to someone in need.

Take the first step

We hope you decide to join us for a rewarding and fulfilling journey.

To offer your time and services to those in need, please fill in below and complete the PAI registration form on the other side and return it to:

PAI Program, LASNNY,
55 Colvin Ave., Albany, NY 12206
Phone: (518) 689-6322, (518) 689-6334
Fax: (518) 427-8352

We welcome you to check out our website (www.lasnny.org) for upcoming trainings and events. Of particular interest is our newsletter, *Legal Aid Matters*, with a section dedicated to recognizing our PAI volunteers.

Thank You For Your Commitment.

Name: _____

Law Firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____