NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY OFFERS FORECLOSURE DEFENSE TRAINING SEMINAR FOR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

EDISON – In response to the continuing foreclosure crisis in New Jersey, Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), in conjunction with the Passaic County Bar Association, is offering a training seminar for attorneys willing to accept at least one pro bono case from Legal Services. The training will take place on Tuesday, November 30, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Arbitration Room at 77 Hamilton Street in Paterson.

Participants can earn up to four and a half CLE credits for the training. There is no fee for attending; costs are being underwritten by the Hackensack firm Nowell Amoroso Klein Bierman, PA. Space is limited and registration is required, which can be done online at www.ProBonoNJ.org or by contacting Anu Gurnani by email at probono@lsnj.org.

According to Peggy Jurow, senior attorney for LSNJ’s Anti-Predatory Lending Project, “Amid recent developments about improper foreclosure practices, such as those involving false documents or ‘robo-signers,’ which have prompted the mortgage servicing arms of major financial institutions to temporarily freeze millions of foreclosures, we find ourselves at a critical juncture. Now more than ever, New Jersey’s indigent homeowners require competent legal representation to assist them in — MORE —
affirmatively contesting the foreclosures filed on their homes.” In 2009, foreclosure complaints in Passaic County totaled 4,113. And, according to a report released in July by the New Jersey State Judiciary, foreclosure filings have doubled in the last year.

The training seminar will prepare volunteer lawyers to represent low-income homeowners facing foreclosure, or who may be at an increased risk of foreclosure because they were deceived or treated unfairly by a mortgage broker, lender or servicer. Topics will include the foreclosure procedure; procedural and substantive defenses; alternatives to foreclosure; mediation; and bankruptcy in the foreclosure process.

Training faculty will be Jurow, Rebecca Schore and Engy Abdelkader of LSNJ’s Anti-Predatory Lending Project, and Bruce Levitt of the South Orange firm Levitt & Slafkes.

LSNJ’s pro bono program provides on-going support and assistance, as well as malpractice insurance. All court fees are automatically waived, and all hours dedicated to pro bono cases for Legal Services are eligible for the Madden exemption.