

NEWS RELEASE

Legal Services of New Jersey
100 Metroplex Drive at Plainfield Avenue
P.O. Box 1357
Edison, New Jersey 08818-1357

Contact: Harvey Fisher
Phone: (732) 529-8430
Fax: (732) 572-0066
E-mail: hfisher@lsnj.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY FILES MOTION TO INTERVENE IN FORECLOSURE CASE

EDISON – Legal Services of New Jersey today filed a motion to intervene in the case involving the recently-recommended stipulations by a state-appointed attorney and six banks over how to deal with foreclosure issues.

Legal Services said that it is not challenging the announced provisions in the stipulations, which still must receive judicial approval, but rather it is seeking a number of clarifications and other points that would protect the rights of unrepresented homeowners in foreclosure proceedings.

The stipulations, announced a week ago, come some four months after Chief Justice Stuart Rabner issued orders to guard against questionable foreclosure practices that, in part, might have led to judges inadvertently approving foreclosures that lacked support, such as required paperwork and background checks.

At the time, the chief justice cited a lengthy report issued by Legal Services questioning and focusing on how many foreclosures were being pushed through without necessary safeguards or adequate investigations. The LSNJ report said that the use of false affidavits and inaccurate documents was widespread throughout New Jersey and the nation.

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The pending stipulations were reached by Edward Dauber, the court-appointed attorney, and the six banks ordered by the chief justice in December to show that their foreclosure procedures were accurate and reliable and met required proof.

In seeking to intervene, Legal Services said it wants to make sure that homeowners have a voice in the process before the judiciary acts.

Operating in New Jersey through a network of six regional programs and LSNJ, the statewide coordinating office, Legal Services provides essential legal aid—and access to the judicial system to resolve disputes—to people who cannot afford legal counsel for their civil legal problems.

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