

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

Contact: Harvey Fisher
Office Phone: 732-529-8430
Cell Phone: 908-616-9941
E-mail: hfisher@lsnj.org

FOR RELEASE AT WILL

May 2019

**LATEST LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON RECOURSES
FOR CLIENTS AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS LAWYERS**

EDISON — It generally isn't widely known but during the past 12 months more than \$2.5 million was awarded to clients bilked by 53 dishonest lawyers, most of whom were disbarred or suspended under New Jersey' rigorous, by-the-book oversight of attorneys.

Further, if clients believe they have been charged by attorneys for excessive fees, they, too, have a ready-made avenue for recourse that often sees some of the over-the-top charges reduced.

The tough regulatory system on ethics for lawyers, as well as judges, under the direction of the New Jersey Supreme Court and bolstered by state law and numerous stringent regulations is the focus of the latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ).

The bilingual publication, "Looking Out For Your Legal Rights," may be viewed online at www.lsnjlaw.org and also is available at all Legal Services offices in New Jersey.

The latest issue, authored by LSNJ attorney Harold Rubenstein provides contact links for virtually every key attorney oversight program and related matters — all of which are long-standing permanent operations. For example, the Lawyers Fund for Client Protection, which cited 53 devious lawyers during the past 12 months, actually has levelled awards against more than 800 attorneys during the past 20 years.

The LSNJ newsletter, designed to inform low-to-moderate income residents of their legal rights, notes the Office of Attorney Ethics supervises the disciplinary system and can be reached at 609-403-7800 or online at <https://bit.ly/2UVIcur>. That site also can be used to check the disciplinary history of any New Jersey lawyer — information that can be especially useful before hiring an attorney.

For disputes over fee charges there are District Fee Arbitration Committees throughout the state. All parties must agree in advance that a panel’s decision will be binding.

Beyond ethics matters there are many legal issues that require court fees in filing or responding to complaints, motions and responses. In a separate article the newsletter details how low-income residents may be able to have the often-costly filing fees waived.

Meanwhile, the publication points out help in navigating the court system is available at every courthouse in the state under New Jersey’s Judiciary Ombudsman Program. While an ombudsman cannot give legal advice, he or she often provides general information and some details about filling out needed paperwork for a case.

Additionally, LSNJ can be contacted at 1-888-576-5529 or at www.lsnjlawhotline.org for questions or legal advice on civil matters.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state’s Legal Services system, a network of five independent non-profit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for more than 50 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.4 million cases.

#####

