

ATTORNEYS WANTED

TO SERVE ON A REDUCED FEE LAWYER REFERRAL PANEL

The Board of Trustees of Bergen County Bar Association recently established a Reduced Fee Lawyer Referral Program in an effort to satisfy the unmet legal needs of Bergen County's underrepresented clients. The Reduced Fee Referral Program (RFP) will provide legal assistance to those clients who cannot afford full legal fees but do not qualify for legal aid programs. Attorneys willing to participate in this important community service will agree to accept clients on a \$75 per hour reduced fee and reduced retainer schedule in specific areas of practice. The RFP will refer in the following subject areas: Bankruptcy – Chapter 7 Only, Criminal Matters, Family Matters, Foreclosures – Defense Only, Landlord/Tenant – Tenants Only, Municipal Court Matters, Name Change/Expungements, Small Claims Actions, Special Civil Part, Tort Defense.

Panel members shall be required to pay an annual fee of \$35. The annual fee will be waived if the panel member is also a member in good standing in the Bar's Lawyer Referral Service. Members must be engaged in the practice of law and carry professional liability insurance in the amount of \$500K/\$1M and submit proof of coverage annually to the BCBA.

The client agrees to pay, in advance, for all filing fees and court costs. Panel members must provide each prospective client referred with an initial no fee consultation of up to 30 minutes.

If you are interested in participating in the BCBA reduced fee lawyer referral program, please contact Kelly Ryder at kryder@bergenbar.org to request a RFP application.