



Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

Contact Information

Website: <http://www.lasnny.org/>
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Description of Organization

The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York is a non-profit law firm, which provides free legal services to low-income people in Northeastern New York. The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York provides effective, free civil legal services, education to, and advocacy for people with low incomes 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. We serve a 16-county service area in northeastern New York: Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington. The Legal Aid Society has offices in Albany, Amsterdam, Canton, Plattsburgh, and Saratoga Springs.

Volunteer Opportunities

Assigned Counsel Program: This is a judicially mandated pro bono program for Albany and Rensselaer county residents seeking a divorce. Clients are assisted by Legal Aid staff with completing an application to proceed as a poor person, and for assignment of counsel in a divorce. Once assigned, Legal Aid tracks the case. Intake is generally done on the third Thursday of the month. Service Type: Extended

Attorney for the Day: Clients are provided with advice at their first appearance on a housing matter in Albany City Court. The Program is currently held on the first and third Fridays of each month. The Program lasts approximately two hours, depending on the Court docket. The private volunteer attorneys offering free legal advice receive their credit through the Legal Aid Society or the Albany County Bar Association. Service Type: Brief

Bankruptcy: Represent clients in filing for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy.

Consumer Debt: Various work including acting on the behalf of a client to lift or modify a wage garnishment, helping to take care of a frozen bank account, or representing a client in a debt collection matter.

Domestic Violence Divorce Referrals: Full representation is provided to victims of domestic violence to obtain a divorce. Service: Extended

General Referrals: A volunteer offers legal assistance to a client regarding a civil legal issue not stated herein, including, but not limited to housing, unemployment insurance benefits, SSI/SSD, a consumer matter. Service type: Varied

Help Center: Volunteers at the Albany County Family Court Help Center assist unrepresented litigants with the completion of court forms, as well as provide information and advice on child support, custody, paternity, guardianship, and other family law matters. Volunteers are contacted at the end of each month to sign up for shifts at the Help Center for the following month. Shifts are typically 2 hours each, but they can be shorter or longer, depending on the volunteer's preferences. This program is co-sponsored with the Albany County Bar Association. Service Type: Brief

IOOV/LGBT Advice: The Legal Aid Society, The Legal Project and In Our Own Voices co-sponsor this program. The purpose of the program is to offer legal advice to lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgendered people of color on a civil legal issue. Service Type: Advice.

Full Representation: Landlord/Tenant, foreclosure matters, SSD/SSI Benefits, Unemployment, Matrimonials, Custody, or Child Support; possibly, representing the client in court or at administrative hearings.

Pro Se Divorce Clinic: Assist clients in classroom setting to complete pleadings, allowing them to obtain a divorce.

Transgender Name Change: For this program, transgender clients receive representation from a volunteer lawyer with a petition for a name change. Service type: Extended

Wills, Health Care Proxies, Power of Attorney: Preparation of a Will, Health Care Proxy or Power of Attorney.

Areas of Substantive Law

Bankruptcy
Consumer Law
Family Law
Housing Law (Landlord-Tenant, foreclosure)
Matrimonial Law

SSI & SSD Benefits
Trusts & Estates
Unemployment Law
Veterans Affairs

General Notes

Capacity: LASNNY has the capacity to manage a large number of volunteers.

Experience: Previous experience in the area of substantive law is helpful, but not required.

Supervision: LASNNY does not supervise volunteers; instead, we act as a liaison. The volunteer is responsible for his or her own case. LASNNY will provide oversight on progress of the case and request information and final disposition.