

Why be a LSNM Pro Bono or Judicare Attorney?

- Provide access to justice.
- Reduce social inequalities.
- Attend LSNM sponsored CLE's for free or at a reduced rate.
- May be eligible for free attendance at Minnesota CLE sponsored courses.
- Fulfill ethical aspirational goal.
- Recognition as a North Star Lawyer with 50 plus hours of pro bono time in calendar year.

Pro Bono Attorney Time earns free CLE's

- Pro Bono attorneys receive free CLE credit for *pro bono* time. You earn one credit for each six hours volunteered and may earn up to six credits each reporting period.

Sign up!

Complete the attached form and return it to:

Private Attorney Involvement
426 Broadway Street
Alexandria, MN 56308
pai@lsnmlaw.org

Questions?

General questions regarding PAI may be directed to pai@lsnmlaw.org or by calling 1-800-450-8585.

Service Area

LSNM provides justice in these counties:

Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin.

Client Eligibility and Case Determination

Client's must complete an application and be found eligible based upon the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) by comparing the number of people in the household with their income and assets. Most clients have incomes at or below 125% of the FPG. All clients have incomes at or below 200% of FPG.

LSNM attorneys in Alexandria, Bemidji, and Moorhead provide advice and representation to eligible clients. Pro Bono and Judicare attorneys allow LSNM to serve more clients in an attempt to fill the justice gap. Currently, less than 15% of legal aid eligible clients in northwest Minnesota receive legal assistance. Judicare and Pro Bono Attorneys make a huge difference in filling the justice gap.



Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program

Did you know there are more than 3,400 eligible clients for every paid legal aid attorney in Minnesota?

Currently less than **15%** of legal aid eligible clients receive legal help.

LSNM's PAI program connects private attorneys with clients eligible for free legal services.

Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct RULE 6.1: VOLUNTARY PRO BONO PUBLICO SERVICE says:

Every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least 50 hours of *pro bono publico* legal services per year.

You may choose to serve as a **Judicare Attorney, Pro Bono Attorney, or both.** You are never obligated to take a case. Our hope is for you to help **LSNM increase the number of low-income clients receiving help.** Thank you so much!

Judicare

Judicare attorneys receive a nominal hourly rate for assisting LSNM eligible clients. Judicare panel attorney names are added to the judicare attorney list provided to clients. The client initiates contact with the judicare attorney and arranges an initial consultation. The attorney then submits to LSNM a form to request reimbursement for the consultation rate and request any further funding, if needed. A determination is made if the case meets LSNM's priorities for any additional funding.

Pro Bono

Pro Bono attorneys have no expectation of being paid for their advice or representation and give their time as volunteers. LSNM contacts the pro bono attorney directly with client information and the pro bono attorney agrees to accept or decline the case. If accepted, the pro bono attorney calls the client within three business days and offers basic advice via telephone or meets with a client at an Ask an attorney or Specialty Clinic and completes an Attorney portion of intake form and returns it to LSNM. Attorneys may choose to provide further service pro bono, if appropriate.



Telephone Advice Panel

When an eligible individual needs advice on a legal issue, the pro bono attorney receives an e-mail from LSNM with the simple intake form including the client's name and contact information, along with any names of other parties involved. The attorney may check for any conflicts of interest, and based upon their availability may then accept or deny the case. If accepted, the attorney agrees to contact the individual within three business days. After the consultation is complete, the attorney completes the bottom half of the simple intake form and returns it to LSNM. Cases are assigned to pro bono attorneys on a rotating basis, and attorneys simply email LSNM when a short leave from the list is needed.

Brief Services

Attorney reviews client documents, and assists in drafting a letter, pro se forms, or another document, such as a will.

Extended/Full Representation

Attorneys agree to provide extended or full representation as needed to complete a client's case. This may include negotiating a settlement, representation at an OFP/HRO or eviction hearing, or litigation in a dissolution or custody matter.

Ask an Attorney/Specialty Clinics

At an Ask an Attorney clinic, an attorney is available to meet with a client on a first come, first serve basis at an off-site location (usually a courthouse or library). The attorney meets with the individual for up to 15 minutes and provides legal advice. The clinic is usually held for a one-hour time period.

Specialty clinics allow clients to meet with attorneys to address specific legal issues and will be scheduled intermittently.

PAI PROGRAM PRO BONO / JUDICARE ENROLLMENT FORM

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone No: _____

Attorney License #: _____

Good Standing Y N

How are you willing to assist clients?

- Telephone Advice
- Brief Services
- Ask an Attorney/Specialty Law Clinic
- Extended/Full Representation

Areas in which I am willing to assist clients:

PB = Pro Bono J=Judicare

PB J

- Bankruptcy/Consumer Debt Collection
- Custody/Child Support
- Divorce
- HRO/OFP
- Education (IEP/Expulsion/Suspension)
- Employment/Unemployment
- Expungement
- Landlord/Tenant (private & subsidized)
- Foreclosure/Contract for Deed Cancellation
- Public Benefits (MFIP, SNAP, MA, etc.)
- Social Security/SSI
- Simple Will/HCD/POA
- Tax Issues
- Family Law Mediation

Counties in which I will provide brief services, extended/full representation or help at Ask an Attorney/Specialty clinic:
