



Sample Pro Bono Recruitment Letters  
Written by Judges

Recruitment of Attorneys by Judges (Q)  
CPB Files - 7125

STATE OF NEW YORK  
**UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM**  
**NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
RICHARD J. DARONCO  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
111 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BOULEVARD  
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10601  
(914) 285-4100  
FAX: (914) 285-4111

**JONATHAN LIPPMAN**  
Chief Administrative Judge

**FRANCIS A. NICOLAI**  
District Administrative Judge  
Ninth Judicial District

**JOSEPH J. TRAFICANTI, JR.**  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge  
Courts Outside New York City

November 15, 2000

**NICHOLAS A. FEDERICI**  
Executive Assistant

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing to urge you to join the Volunteer Program of Westchester/Putnam Legal Services as a volunteer attorney. In past years, 281 attorneys indicated their willingness to participate in an organized pro bono program to deliver high quality legal services to needy individuals in Westchester and Putnam counties.

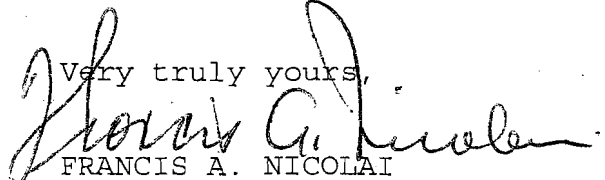
It is important that you respond positively and enthusiastically to this challenge. The enclosed brochure describes how the program works and the different areas of practice.

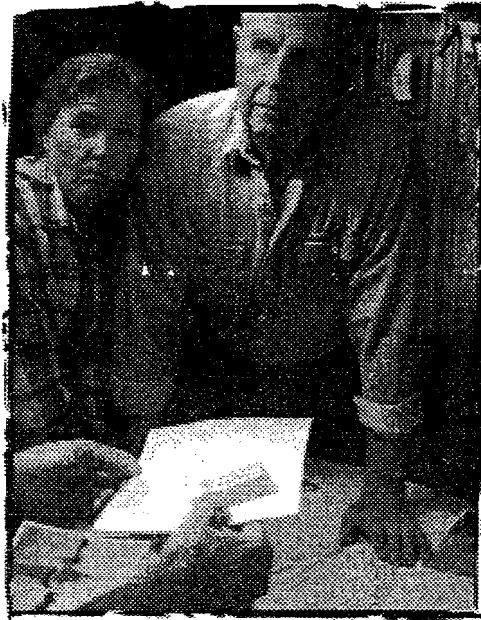
There are approximately 59,000 indigent persons living in Westchester and Putnam counties. While Westchester/Putnam Legal Services in White Plains and Yonkers is a civil legal services provider for Westchester and Putnam counties, there are more needy clients than can be served by that law office.

Every day there are at least one or more indigent persons who contact Westchester/Putnam Legal Services asking for legal help and yet are unable to obtain assistance due to lack of adequate funding and volunteer attorneys. Some become pro se litigants; most simply continue on with their civil legal needs unfulfilled.

If you will join the Volunteer Attorney Program, you will be doing the judiciary and the citizens of these counties and yourself a great service. I know that you will find this work very rewarding and in keeping with the best traditions of the legal profession to insure access to justice for all.

If you have any questions regarding the Volunteer Attorney Program that are not answered in the enclosed brochure, please call Maria C. Bida, Pro Bono Coordinator at Westchester/Putnam Legal Services at (914) 949-1305.

Very truly yours,  
  
FRANCIS A. NICOLAI  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



There are millions of  
reasons to do Pro Bono.  
(Here are two.)

Each year, in communities across New York State, indigent people face more than three million civil legal matters without assistance. Women seek protection from an abusive spouse...children are denied public benefits...families are faced with losing their homes – all without the benefit of legal counsel. They need help. We need volunteers.

If every attorney volunteered just 20 hours a year, and made a financial contribution to a legal services or pro bono organization, we could make a difference in millions of cases. Give your time. Share your talent. Contact your local pro bono program or call the New York State Bar Association at 518-487-5641 today.



*Sponsored by the New York State Bar Association*



Appellate Division  
Supreme Court of the State of New York  
Second Judicial Department  
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201

DAVID S. RITTER  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

TO: Ladies & Gentlemen of the Westchester Bar

I have been asked to join with Francis A. Nicolai, Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, in communicating my views on the pro bono legal services program in place in Westchester County.

I urge you to volunteer your services as a participant in the Volunteer Attorney Program of Westchester/Putnam Legal Services. My esteemed predecessor as Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, the late Joseph F. Gagliardi, established the program many years ago. I am informed that efforts are currently underway to expand the initiative. I strongly encourage you to agree to participate.

The practice of law is an exclusive privilege that carries with it attendant responsibilities. Lawyers are obliged to render pro bono services for the poor and disadvantaged who cannot afford to pay for representation. In Westchester and Putnam counties a critical need for help from the Bar in providing civil legal services exists. Westchester/Putnam Legal Services is unable to serve more than a small number of those needing assistance.

You honor your profession, and you do the judiciary and the citizens of the affected counties, a great service by joining in the Volunteer Attorney Program. The finest tradition of the legal profession is advanced by insuring access to the judicial system for all. I urge you to respond positively and enthusiastically to this continuing initiative.

Sincerely yours,

DSR/nt