



May 12, 2009

Dear member of the legal community:

We write to request your help in connection with providing much-needed volunteer legal assistance to the many thousands of New Yorkers who have been adversely affected by the economic downturn.

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the City launched *NYC Service*, an exciting and important new program designed to increase civic engagement and volunteerism in New York City. *NYC Service* aims to make ours the easiest city in the nation in which to serve as a volunteer. The goal is to unleash the spirit of service throughout the five boroughs by encouraging and empowering New Yorkers of every age to contribute to the health and well being of their neighbors and their neighborhoods. *NYC Service* will set a new standard for community involvement in tackling the City's toughest problems while promoting volunteerism as a core part of what it means to be a citizen of the greatest city in the world.

A critical aspect of this initiative involves the expansion of pro bono legal assistance, a tradition that is one of the hallmarks of the legal profession. The City has developed *NYC Legal Outreach* to harness the time and skills of attorneys willing to provide pro bono legal services to New Yorkers in need.

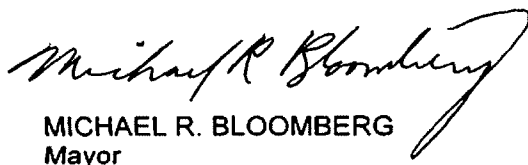
In an unprecedented joint effort, the City and the New York State Office of Court Administration will partner with local bar associations, pro bono organizations, legal services providers and law schools to increase the number of volunteer attorneys available to provide assistance in four key areas: foreclosure, eviction, immigration and consumer credit. Whether you are fully employed, retired, recently laid off or deferring employment, there is a place for you at this "table." *We urge you to attend one of the five meetings scheduled below. Top representatives from the City, the Office of Court Administration and legal organizations in need of pro bono volunteers will be present to answer your questions and discuss the available opportunities, training resources and the process for matching attorneys with clients.*

Tuesday, May 26th, 6:00 PM: **BROOKLYN** Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street  
Monday, June 8th, 6:00 PM: **BRONX** Supreme Court, 851 Grand Concourse, Courtroom 711  
Wednesday, June 17th, 6:00 PM: **STATEN ISLAND**, Central Jury Rm., 126 Stuyvesant Pl. (St. George)  
Monday, June 22nd, 6:00 PM: **MANHATTAN**, CUNY Graduate Ctr, Elebash Hall, 365 Fifth Ave (34th St.)  
Thursday, June 25th, 6:00 PM: **QUEENS** Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Room 213 (Kew Gardens)

Please e-mail ([probonorsvp@law.nyc.gov](mailto:probonorsvp@law.nyc.gov)) or call us (212) 442-9031 with any questions and to advise whether you will join us at one of the scheduled meetings.

New York is fortunate to have many organizations that have the experience and expertise to guide volunteer lawyers. And, of course, New York is equally fortunate to have among its citizens a large corps of attorneys who can be counted on -- just as they were after the tragic events of 9/11 -- to help their fellow New Yorkers. We look forward to seeing you at one of these upcoming meetings.

Sincerely,

  
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG  
Mayor

  
JONATHAN LIPPMAN  
Chief Judge