

NOTICE TO THE BAR

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW COURT RULE 1:21-11 – ANNUAL RENEWAL CERTIFICATION OF PRO BONO ORGANIZATIONS

On July 22, 2014, the Supreme Court adopted new Court Rule 1:21-11, "Definitions and Certifications Regarding Pro Bono Practice," effective January 1, 2015. The rule requires organizations providing pro bono service and that seek to take advantage of certain opportunities under the court rules to become a certified entity. R. 1:21-11(b). The details of that initial certification process are set forth in a previous notice to the bar dated December 29, 2014.

The rule also requires that starting in 2016, all certified organizations must by April 30 each year complete and submit a renewal certification to the Supreme Court. R. 1:21-11(b)(1)(ii). The renewal certification, on a form approved by the Judiciary, shall indicate that the organization or program continues to meet the rule definition to be a certified entity; it also shall list the attorneys who provided qualifying pro bono service under the auspices of the organization or entity during the preceding year. An organization or program that fails to timely file its yearly certification with the Supreme Court will lose its status as a certified entity under the rule. Similarly, organizations that have obtained fee waiver status under R. 1:21-11(b)(2) also must submit an annual renewal certification by April 30 to retain that fee waiver status, starting in 2016.

The annual certification is to be completed and submitted online via the Judiciary's Pro Bono Organization portal. The online form will be available no later than **February 1, 2016** and must be submitted by **April 30, 2016**. It will be posted on the Judiciary's pro bono webpage at the following location: <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/probono/index.htm>. An additional notice to the bar will confirm when the online annual certification form has been posted.



Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: December 14, 2015