

June 21, 2007

Dear Virginia Advocacy Organization or Not-for-Profit Legal Services Provider:

RE: Networking Opportunities for Groups Serving Special Needs Populations

This note is sent to encourage your participation in several matters of importance that require fairly prompt responses if you elect to get involved.

Equal Justice Works Career Fair-Public Interest Employer Registration

First, those of you from groups organized as providers of direct legal or law-related services, please note that the American Bar Association is encouraging prospective employer registrations by public interest organizations or their local representatives for the October Career Fair in Washington, D.C. See www.equaljusticeworks.org. The fair should help providers recruit law graduates and new bar members for paid staff positions.

On-line Survey regarding Legal Needs of Older Virginians

Second, in September of 2006, Virginia was one of six states awarded a federal grant to fund a project to strengthen legal resources for elders. Entitled *Project 2025: Enhanced Access to Legal Assistance for Older Americans in Virginia*, the initiative is a partnership between the Virginia Department for the Aging and the Virginia Poverty Law Center, a VSB-licensed legal aid society. One objective is to foster private bar involvement and public-private bar collaboration on behalf of older Virginians. To that end, the project is seeking key information on how legal aid and related programs serve elders and collaborate with the private bar. We encourage you to consider responding to the survey.

You can help *Project 2025* garner this information by filling out an online survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=5SdsPAzYQWkH5G%2fjQsiiGQ%3d%3d>.

Either type that URL into your browser or access the hotlink from

<http://www.vsb.org/docs/pb-survey-letter-07.pdf> where a replica of this letter is shown.

If you feel it is important, for proprietary reasons, to view the survey questions before inserting answers, you can download the survey instrument by inserting the word "Test" along with a random number or letter of the alphabet in the space for question 3. The **deadline** for responding is **July 15, 2007**. Inquiries about *Project 2025* may be directed to John Whitfield, Executive Director of Blue Ridge Legal Services, a civil legal aid society licensed by the Virginia State Bar. They may also be directed to Janet James, Legal Services Developer at the Virginia Department for the Aging. Their e-mails are: jwhitfield@brls.org and Janet.James@vda.virginia.gov.

VOPA Annual "Public Input Survey" on Needs of People with Disabilities

Third, another online questionnaire seeking input on the needs of special populations is the "Public Input Survey" sponsored by the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy. Seeking feedback on the needs of people with disabilities, both in institutional and other

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settings, it offers a choice of anonymity to respondents, including those defining themselves as “service providers.” **It has a projected closing date of June 22nd.** If you wish to reply after that date, call or e-mail me for possible further instructions.

We are sending this notice to a number of groups, including programs that participate as “approved legal assistance organizations” under Virginia’s existing Emeritus Rule of Court, or that are grantees of the Virginia Law Foundation, or whose names have come to our attention because of their special missions, or affiliations with law schools or faith-based entities. This notice is being cross-posted to account for the impending reply deadlines, so apologies in advance for any redundancy.

We hope to send another communication toward the end of the summer or in early fall. If you hear about our outreach second-hand, and you or another program you are affiliated with would like to be included in future VSB communications, please contact me so that we may consider including your organization in notices about relevant initiatives.

Networking Opportunities with New or Expanded Programs

Other than *Project 2025* (noted above), here are samples of the types of new or expanded law-related programs we would like to learn more about so you have a chance to join their surveys or referral networks and they can be included in networking efforts:

Boaz & Ruth’s “Back to Work” Project (low income and previously incarcerated)

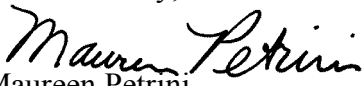
(see <http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/opinion/commentary.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2007-06-03-0087.html> or contact rrollins@drivetowork.org for client eligibility guidelines. Candidates with outside support typically make the best prospective clients.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

<http://www.dvs.virginia.gov> and <http://www.wm.edu/publicpolicy/vet/vetreport.php> (you can have input on a study about long term care for Veterans in Virginia.)

In closing, we encourage you to visit other Virginia State Bar Web pages including http://www.vsb.org/site/pro_bono/ and <http://www.vayounglawyers.org/>. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you and wish you a productive summer.

Most sincerely,



Maureen Petri

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