

ATTORNEY EMERITUS

New Status

Prospective Attorney Emeritus Program volunteers can enroll in the Attorney Emeritus Program on its website or by calling **877-800-0396**. After enrolling in the program, volunteers are encouraged to contact directly the legal service provider with which they are interested in volunteering.

AEP volunteers will receive training to provide legal advice and assistance for low and moderate income New Yorkers through pro bono programs sponsored by legal services organizations, bar associations, and the court system.

www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/volunteer/emeritus/index.shtml

WWW.NYCOURTS.GOV

volunteerattorneys@nycourts.gov

877-800-0396

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM



volunteerattorneys@nycourts.gov

How can I become an Attorney Emeritus?

You may enroll as an Attorney Emeritus when you next receive your attorney registration form. Or you may enroll now by calling **877-800-0396** or going to nycourts.gov/attorneys/volunteer/emeritus/index.shtml and completing a short online form.

What are the requirements for this new status?

You must be 55 years of age, be an attorney in good standing, and have practiced for a minimum of ten years. You may register to be an Attorney Emeritus if you are retired or engaged in active practice.

Will I be exempt from the \$375 registration fee and the CLE requirements for active practitioners?

Attorneys still engaged in the active practice of law are not exempt from paying the biennial registration fee or satisfying CLE requirements. However, under recently amended rules, pro bono legal services provided under the Attorney Emeritus Program can be counted toward Continuing Legal Education requirements. You may earn up to a total of 15 CLE credit hours through an Attorney Emeritus Program host organization. Alternatively, you may earn up to a total of 15 CLE credit hours as follows: up to 10 CLE credit hours through an Approved Pro Bono CLE Provider or court assignment and the remaining CLE credit hours through an Attorney Emeritus Program host organization. Two 60-minute hours (120 minutes) of such pro bono legal services qualify for one CLE credit hour.

How many hours of pro bono must I commit to performing?

In a 2-year registration period, you must perform a minimum of 60 hours of pro bono service under the auspices of an approved legal service organization in New York, including bar association pro bono programs and court-sponsored volunteer lawyer programs.

What kind of previous experience must I have in the area of law in which I will provide advice?

While helpful, generally no previous experience is required unless otherwise stated. You will be trained and supervised by the organization through which you provide legal services.

Will I be covered by legal malpractice insurance?

Yes. You will be afforded malpractice insurance coverage by the organization through which you perform legal services, and if you participate in a court-sponsored pro bono program you will be covered by the defense and indemnification provisions of Public Officers Law § 17.

What kinds of assistance will I be asked to provide?

AEP legal service providers use volunteers to help them address the legal needs of low-income New Yorkers who cannot afford to hire private counsel. In most cases, you will sit down with those seeking assistance to advise them about their rights, the legal process, and which next steps they should pursue. You may provide limited help to litigants to assist them in preparing petitions, complaints, and other legal documents; or you may choose some programs in which you will become the attorney for the litigant and provide full representation.

What if I have additional questions about the program?

Please call 877-800-0396 or contact: volunteerattorneys@nycourts.gov.

Do I have to wait for my attorney registration materials to sign up for this new status?

No. You may enroll anytime by calling **877-800-0396** or going to nycourts.gov/attorneys/volunteer/emeritus/index.shtml and completing the online form.

