

**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.

“*The AEP exceeded my expectations in providing the opportunity to use my legal skills in retirement to assist disadvantaged New Yorkers and simultaneously maintain my license. In both AEP approved programs where I’ve volunteered the excellent training and supervision gave me confidence that I was well-equipped to advise the clients despite having no previous experience in those practice areas. Both programs also easily accommodated my schedule.*”

Wendy Ellen Cooper

[www.nycourts.gov/ATTORNEYS/volunteer/emeritus/index.shtml](http://www.nycourts.gov/ATTORNEYS/volunteer/emeritus/index.shtml)

[WWW.NYCOURTS.GOV](http://WWW.NYCOURTS.GOV)

[volunteerattorneys@nycourts.gov](mailto:volunteerattorneys@nycourts.gov)

877-800-0396

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

## 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](http://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 retired** from the practice of law are exempt from the registration fee and New York CLE requirements. Attorneys still engaged in the active practice of law are not exempt from paying the registration fee or satisfying CLE requirements. However, pro bono legal services provided under the Attorney Emeritus Program can be counted toward CLE requirements. You may earn up to a total of 15 CLE credit hours through an Attorney Emeritus Program host organization. Please refer to Sections 3(D)(11) and 3(D)(12) of the New York State CLE Board Regulations and Guidelines for more information about CLE credit.

## 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.

## 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](http://nycourts.gov/ATTORNEYS/volunteer/emeritus/index.shtml) and completing the online form.

## What if I have additional questions about the program?

**Please call 877-800-0396** or contact: [volunteerattorneys@nycourts.gov](mailto:volunteerattorneys@nycourts.gov).



“I fully support the successful and innovative Attorney Emeritus Program, created by former Chief Judge Lippman, and sustained by the joint efforts of the Office of Court Administration and Fordham Law School’s Feerick Center for Social Justice. I salute the hundreds of experienced attorneys and the 50-plus legal services programs that are working together to serve low-income New Yorkers and close the justice gap in our State.”

— Chief Judge  
Janet DiFiore



*The status of Attorney Emeritus took effect on January 1, 2010, and was created by the Administrative Board of the Courts, consisting of the Chief Judge and the four Presiding Justices of the Appellate Division. Over 50 legal services organizations and several court-based programs serve as host organizations to Emeritus volunteers. Since the program’s launch, over 2,200 attorneys have registered in the Emeritus category. Emeritus volunteers who complete 60 hours of pro bono service during their biennial registration period receive a certificate of recognition from New York State Chief Judge Janet DiFiore.*

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM



[www.nycourts.gov/ATTORNEYS/volunteer/emeritus/index.shtml](http://www.nycourts.gov/ATTORNEYS/volunteer/emeritus/index.shtml)

[volunteerattorneys@nycourts.gov](mailto:volunteerattorneys@nycourts.gov)

877-800-0396

Are you 55 years  
of age or over,  
10 years in practice,  
and interested  
in performing  
pro bono work?

## ATTORNEY EMERITUS

The Unified Court system, in cooperation with the organized bar and legal services programs, has established an “Attorney Emeritus” status for attorneys in good standing who are at least 55 years old with a minimum of 10 years experience. These attorneys will volunteer in an approved pro bono legal service program in order to help the growing number of New Yorkers who cannot afford counsel.

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM