

**NEW JERSEY LAWYERS' FUND
FOR
CLIENT PROTECTION**

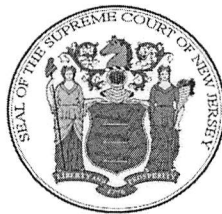
TRUSTEES

CARMEN CORTES-SYKES, CHAIR
JOHN M. KEATING, VICE CHAIR
WILLIAM TRIMMER, TREASURER
NORBERTO A. GARCIA
SCOTT PIEKARSKY
REGINALD J. COLEMAN
COLLEEN A. MCGUIGAN

INVESTIGATOR
ELLIS C. ALLEN

[HTTPS://WWW.NJCOURTS.GOV/ATTORNEYS/CPF.HTML](https://www.njcourts.gov/attorneys/cpf.html)

COURIER & OVERNIGHT:
HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
25 MARKET STREET
5TH FLOOR, NORTH WING
TRENTON, NJ 08611



PO Box 961
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0961

DIRECTOR & COUNSEL
MICHAEL T. MCCORMICK

SENIOR COUNSEL
DOUGLAS E. BERRY

**BOARD SECRETARY &
DEPUTY COUNSEL**
RUBY D. COCHRAN

BILLING SUPERVISOR
CARLA S. COUSINS

PHONE: 855-533-FUND
OUTSIDE NJ: 609-815-3030
FAX: 609-815-2935

November 8, 2023

Hand Delivered

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Administrative Director of the Courts
Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

**Re: Comment on Proposal to Permit Third-Party Referrals
to the NJ LAP**

Dear Judge Grant:


Please accept this Comment on behalf of the Trustees of the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection (hereinafter the "Fund"). We support the proposed amendments to Rules 1:20-9 and 1:28B-3 to permit third-party referrals to the New Jersey Lawyers' Assistance Program (hereinafter "LAP"). The Fund's Trustees recognized the need for LAP in 1993 when they approved the use of Fund reserves to facilitate its establishment. The Fund's current Board continues to recognize LAP's important role in the legal community. Its services are central to assisting and treating attorneys in need and, in so doing, avoiding the scenarios which can result in compensable claims before the Fund.

We believe LAP's ability to accept third-party referrals will enable it to better serve the Court, Bar and public. The proposed amendments will also make it possible for concerned colleagues to suggest LAP's intervention should they become aware of a specific need during the course of their practice. There is no doubt that the effectiveness of the proposed amendments rests with the overwhelming majority of honest New Jersey attorneys and the clients they serve. While there may be rare abuse of the referral option by a disgruntled client or unethical adversary, we are confident in the expertise of the LAP staff to identify such abuse and avoid its consequences. Moreover, the confidentiality necessary and inherent in LAP will act to protect all involved in the referral process.

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Administrative Director of the Courts
November 8, 2023
Page 2

Accordingly, we endorse adoption of the proposed amendments and remain ready to assist LAP as it continues its good work on behalf of our State. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Court's consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,



Carmen Cortes-Sykes
Chair

cc: Heather Joy Baker, Clerk
Nancy Stek, Director, LAP
CCS/mtm