

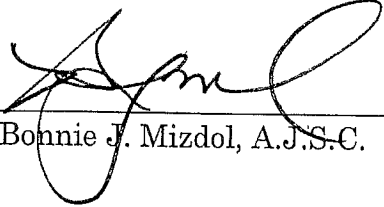
**NOTICE TO THE BERGEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Guardianship Proceedings**

Due to a severe staffing shortage and an unprecedented increase in filings, the Office of the Public Defender is unable to fulfill its obligations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4-165.14 to serve as counsel for persons who do not have an attorney and over whom guardianship of the person is sought. The statute is clear that if the Public Defender is unable to perform this service, the court shall appoint an attorney licensed by the State of New Jersey, in good standing, and that the work rendered shall be on a *pro bono* basis.

I am calling upon the Bergen County Bar Association, particularly the Chancery and Elder Law Committees, to reach out to its membership seeking volunteers to aid the court until fall of 2019 or year's end when the Office of the Public Defender expects to have sufficient staffing to resume its obligations.

I ask that any member of the Bergen County Bar Association interested in aiding the court during this critical period, submit a letter of interest directly to my chambers.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

  
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Bonnie J. Mizdol, A.J.S.C.

Dated: July 3, 2019