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About NJVLA

New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (NJVLA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides *pro bono* (free) legal referrals to organizations involved in culture or the arts and individuals involved

in any creative or cultural endeavor, including music professionals, visual artists, dancers, and writers.

NJVLA matches artist and arts and cultural

organization clients with volunteer attorneys who assist them with arts-related legal issues such as copyright, contracts between artists of every discipline and other parties, taxes on artist royalties, and real estate and landlord/tenant issues regarding studio and gallery space, as well as help them to resolve many other types of arts-related legal problems.

NJVLA also presents educational programs and provides speakers on a wide range of

arts-related legal topics. Our website, www.njvla.org, contains information on and links to a variety of other arts-related legal issues and services.

NJVLA is the recipient of grant awards from The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and The IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.



NJVLA Presents the “Mask-querade”

On **Friday, October 27, 2006**, NJVLA will host an evening of art, music, and entertainment at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick, NJ. There will be a silent auction featuring masks, lithographs, photographs, and many more pieces of amazing artwork donated by supporters of NJVLA.

Appetizers, wine, and entertainment will serve as the

backdrop for this wonderful event showcasing the talents of New Jersey artists.

Tickets are \$100 and available from NJVLA. For more information on how to purchase tickets, donate artwork, purchase space in the ad book, or become a sponsor for the event, please contact Executive Director Tracey I. Batt at 856-627-0428 or director@njvla.org.



What Clients Are Saying about NJVLA

“Managing a successful practice in the arts involves a lot more than the artist alone. There needs to be a resource network in place that supports artists with practical needs, such as studio administration, assistance with booking and promotion, and legal issues. NJVLA is a great, great resource for artists. Their commitment and passion for the arts are immediately apparent. When I had a legal issue regarding contracts, NJVLA resolved it quickly and efficiently. On one occasion, when the theater group that I volunteer with needed more information to share with the community, the Executive Director of NJVLA drove almost two hours out of her way one evening to be with us! It is not everyday we come across something like that. That is true dedication to the arts.”

--Nadine LaFond,
Art Lives Studio

“The service I received from NJVLA was incredibly fast. I had a question about how to obtain a license for my talent agency, and NJVLA responded to my call within the day. If it weren't for NJVLA, I'd still be running around in circles. Thanks to NJVLA, I was directed to the right resources, and my application for the license is currently pending approval.”

--Albert Bramante,
Emerging Talent, LLC

A Message from the Executive Director

Thank you for your interest in New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts and welcome to our first newsletter! We are thrilled to be able to provide free legal referral services to the artists and arts and cultural organizations that make up the thriving arts community in the great Garden State.

I want to take just a few moments to thank the following people and organizations for their overwhelming support of NJVLA:

- NJVLA's incredibly dedicated Board of Directors;
- NJVLA Executive Director Emeritus Thomas A. Crowell, Esq.;
- NJVLA's highly qualified squadron of volunteer attorneys, who cover every arts-related area of the law with enthusiasm and with great care;
- NJVLA's crack team of law student interns, particularly summer interns Arnab “Bobby” Deb Gupta (Rutgers School of Law – Camden), Kathryn “Kate” Lewis (Seton Hall University School of

Law), and Rebecca “Becca” Mainor (Rutgers School of Law – Camden); summer volunteer J. Brugh Lower (Seton Hall University School of Law); and all of the Seton Hall University School of Law students who have assisted the organization with various projects since its inception, particularly Sandro Ocasio for his invaluable assistance with the Needs Assessment Survey; and

- NJVLA's generous funders, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts; The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; and The IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.

Thank you for your support.

Tracey I. Batt, Esq.
NJVLA Executive Director



Educating the Arts Community

NJVLA Executive Director Tracey I. Batt presented a copyright lecture to grantees of the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission at East Jersey Olde Towne Village in Piscataway on June 13, 2006.

To schedule a lecture on copy-

right law or any other arts-related legal topic, contact NJVLA.

(Photograph by Bethany Widrich, Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission)



An Intern's Perspective: Inside NJVLA

In May, I accepted the position as an intern with NJVLA, along with two other law students. Having worked for non-profits in the past, I was extremely excited about this opportunity to work for an organization that aids artists and the art community, since I had never worked with that demographic before. I was hired to help with a multitude of things: client assistance, coordinating the fall fund raiser, writing a newsletter, designing a brochure, and a myriad of other tasks that allowed me to see not only the inside of a young non-profit, but also the inner workings of the legal system.

Over the past ten weeks, I have been given the opportunity to speak with many talented artists and art groups who comprise our clients. The legal issues have run the gamut: from contracts, to landlord/tenant disputes, to trying to start a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All of the clients I have spoken with have been extremely kind and appreciative of the aid NJVLA provides for them. Many of these artists did not know where to turn for legal assistance until they found NJVLA. Speaking with these talented artists and hearing about the struggles involved in this unique industry have been a privilege.

In addition to working with the artists we serve, I was also afforded the opportunity to speak with some of the attorneys who volunteer to take the cases. These attorneys all have their own prac-

tices or firms, and yet they find time in their busy schedules to take on matters for artists in need. Assisting these attorneys with research or client follow-ups has been a joy. The attorneys are indispensable to NJVLA, and knowing that all of the work they do for us is given simply out of dedication and a desire to help those who may not be able to afford legal counsel makes me proud to enter into the legal profession.

Tracey Batt, Executive Director, has taken all of us interns under her wing. She allowed us immediate client contact, trusted us to use our creativity to produce a brochure and this newsletter for NJVLA, and generally provided us with support, guidance, and experience. Under her tutelage, we have learned an aspect of the legal field that is much overlooked: the importance of *pro bono* work. Tracey runs NJVLA entirely on her own, with the support of the Board of Directors. Despite all of the work Tracey does on a daily basis, she always has time when a client calls; in fact, even if there is a grant report due, or a meeting she must attend, when the phone rings, she is there to answer any question an artist may have, and to find them resources to solve their legal issues.

The Board of Directors cannot be overlooked. This is a Board comprised of many different people, from all walks of life, who have a love for the arts and wish to donate their time in support of keeping

NJVLA in operation. The Board members are highly involved, made time to meet with all three interns, and made us all feel welcome and appreciated. All of the members of the Board are volunteers; they give their time and support to NJVLA because they believe in the

mission of the organization.

They are one of the most dedicated groups of people I have had the privilege of working with, and I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such an esteemed group of people.

“These attorneys all have their own practices or firms, and yet they find time in their busy schedules to take on matters for artists in need.”

NJVLA truly recognizes the needs of artists and the arts community in New Jersey.

This summer has been an eye-opening experience for me. As a soon-to-be second-year law student, I was afforded an opportunity that not many of my peers can say they had. I was able to get hands-on legal experience, see the inner workings of a non-profit, and serve the artists and arts community of New Jersey. My time with NJVLA has increased my awareness, educated me, and given me a renewed interest in law. I thank everyone involved with NJVLA for the incomparable opportunity to be involved with such a remarkable organization.

-Rebecca Mainor

Summer Intern Party

Tracey Batt, NJVLA executive director, welcomed the summer interns to her home for a thank you BBQ on July 12. At the end of the day, it was the interns who were thanking Tracey.

Bobby, Kate, Becca, and Brugh toured the house and Tracey directed their attention to her eclectic artwork, collectibles, and memorabilia.

Between the fascinating surroundings and the great food, a good time was had by all.

NJVLA interns from left to right: Bobby Deb Gupta, Kate Lewis, Becca Mainor, Brugh Lower





NJVLA STAFF AND DIRECTORS:

Executive Director:

Tracey I. Batt, Esq.

2006 Officers:

Nicholas Stevens, Esq. - President
Deborah Fennelly, Esq. - Vice President
Siegmar Silber, Esq. - Treasurer
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Cynthia Jacob, Esq.
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Mark S. Melodia, Esq.
Honorable Alexander J. Menza, Retired
Linwood Oglesby

Board Members continued:

Gregory J. Perry
Peter Skolnik, Esq.
Robert Steinbaum, Esq.

Counsel:

Howard J. Schwartz, Esq.

Summer Interns and Student Volunteers:

Arnab Deb Gupta
Kathryn Lewis
Rebecca Mainor
J. Brugh Lower
Sandro Ocasio

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NJVLA Services

The New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts ("NJVLA") provides legal education, representation, and other legal services to the entire State's arts community, and in particular to low income artists and non-profit arts organizations.

NJVLA provides artists and arts and cultural organizations with referrals to volunteer attorneys who provide a range of services:



The Legal Line: A 30-60 minute telephone consultation with an attorney to discuss an arts-related legal issue.



The Law Fax: Attorneys review short (three pages or fewer) legal documents, and discuss the content with the client in a single 30-60 minute telephone call.



The Full Service Referral: Our attorneys take on cases for artists and arts and cultural organizations as they would for any of their other clients when an arts-related legal issue cannot be resolved in a single telephone call. The attorney's time is provided free, with the client responsible for any costs such as court fees. Please contact us to see if you qualify for this service.