



NEEDS SURVEY

Our Mission: New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Inc. (“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 helps artists and arts and cultural organizations to resolve their arts-related legal issues by referring them to volunteer attorneys.

Whom does NJVLA serve? Anyone involved in any creative or cultural endeavor, including music practitioners, visual artists, dancers, choreographers, filmmakers, writers, and poets, or any organization involved in culture or the arts.

What is an arts-related legal issue? Almost any legal issue can be an arts-related issue in the right context. Just a few examples are copyright; contracts between an artist and a gallery, a musician and a record label, a songwriter and an agent, or an author and a publisher; taxes on songwriter royalties; real estate and landlord/tenant issues regarding studio space; and arts organization formation.

What legal services does NJVLA provide?

- **Legal Lines:** A Legal Line is a one-time telephone consultation with an attorney to discuss a particular arts-related legal issue. The attorney will speak with the client once, usually for 30-60 minutes. If the client requires further assistance, he/she should contact NJVLA and begin the process again. Legal Lines are free and available to any artist or arts or cultural organization, regardless of income or annual budget. Examples are:
 - “I want to register my copyrights in all my photographs. Do I have to register each one individually, or can I group them together?”
 - “I receive songwriter royalties from ASCAP. Is that taxable income?”
 - “The Post Office lost a painting I mailed to a buyer. I did not insure it for the full value. How much can I recover?”
- **Law Faxes:** A Law Fax is essentially a Legal Line for a document. Attorneys review short (no more than three-page) legal documents, and discuss the contents with the client in one-time telephone calls. This service is for reviewing language, suggesting potential changes, and explaining terms and rights and responsibilities. An attorney will not rewrite a document in a Law Fax referral. Law Faxes are free and available to any artist or arts or cultural organization, regardless of income or annual budget. Examples are:

- “I’ve been offered a recording contract. I don’t understand all the terms. For example, what does ‘work made for hire’ mean?”
- “I signed a consignment agreement with a gallery for three of my paintings. They sold two of them and damaged the other, but they won’t pay me for all three. What are my rights under the agreement?”
- **Full Service:** Full Service representations are for matters that cannot be resolved with a single telephone call; the attorney’s time is provided on a *pro bono* (free) basis, with the client responsible for any costs such as court fees. Full Service representation, in general, is available to non-profit organizations with an annual budget of \$750,000 or less or individual artists who, if single, have an annual gross income of \$30,000 or less or, if married or cohabiting, have a combined annual gross income of \$50,000 or less, with a \$2,000 credit per dependent regardless of family makeup. Examples are:
 - “A photographer is selling photographs of a mural I painted without my permission. He has refused to give me credit or part of the proceeds. Please write a letter and, if that doesn’t work, help me sue him.”
 - “I am starting a record company and need help drafting agreements with my performers that will protect me and be fair to them.”
 - “I work with an artists’ cooperative. We want to buy an old warehouse and convert it to studio space for artists and need help with the real estate transaction.”
 - “I want to form a non-profit organization that provides musical instruments and music lessons to disadvantaged schoolchildren.”

NJVLA also presents educational programs and provides speakers on a wide range of arts-related legal topics. NJVLA’s website, www.njvla.org, contains links and general information on a variety of legal and other issues of interest to artists and those who work in the arts and cultural fields. NJVLA also offers Board Matching and Dispute Resolution 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.



Through NJVLA, the Arts Community obtains legal support and information, including education for arts practitioners about their rights and responsibilities in developing, protecting, and realizing the value in their work. As the Arts Community is better able to protect, distribute, and benefit from its own work, its members will be in a much better position to enrich the lives of New Jersey citizens and to participate in the economy, helping to make the Garden State a great place to live, work, and visit.

This survey is intended to obtain valuable input from the Arts Community so that NJVLA may refine our goals and focus our resources on the community's primary needs.

Please fill out:

1. the two-page survey, and
2. the one-page contact sheet and return them to:

Tracey I. Batt, Esq.
Executive Director
New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Inc.
P.O. Box 1520
Laurel Springs, New Jersey 08021
Phone: 856-963-6300
Fax: 856-963-6301
e-mail: info@njvla.org

You may send the contact sheet separately if you wish to submit the survey anonymously.



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1. How are you involved in the arts?

- Artist _____
- Arts organization _____
- Arts patron _____
- Arts educator _____
- Other: please list _____

2. What is your zip code? _____

3. If you are an artist, what is your discipline (check all that apply):

- Music _____
- Writing/Literature _____
- Film/Video _____
- Dance _____
- Graphic/Electronic Arts _____
- Photography _____
- Theater _____
- Painting/Sculpture _____
- Other: please list _____

4. Please rank the following services, in order of importance to you (1 = most important):

- Legal hot line: 1 2 3 4 5
- Educational seminars/workshops: 1 2 3 4 5
- Legal referrals: 1 2 3 4 5
- Mediation: (i.e., dispute settlement conferences): 1 2 3 4 5
- Other (please list _____): 1 2 3 4 5

5. What amount of money would you be willing to pay for the above types of services?

- None _____
- \$10-\$25 _____
- Up to \$50 _____
- Up to \$100 _____
- Over \$100 _____

6. Please rank the following educational programs/workshops by your interest in them (1 = most important):

- Business entity formation and planning _____
- Copyright/Intellectual Property _____
- General Contracts (*e.g.*, licenses, leases, goods and services) _____
- Insurance _____
- Landlord/Tenant _____
- Non-profit organization issues _____
- Tax _____
- Other (please list _____) _____

7. What types of legal issues as an artist or organization have you had previously?

- Business entity formation and planning _____
- Copyright/Intellectual Property _____
- General Contracts (*e.g.*, licenses, leases, goods and services) _____
- Insurance _____
- Landlord/Tenant _____
- Non-profit organization issues _____
- Tax _____
- Other (please list _____) _____

8. (Optional) If you are an artist, what is your yearly income?

- \$0-10,000 _____
- \$11,000-20,000 _____
- \$21,000-30,000 _____
- \$31,000-40,000 _____
- over \$40,000 _____

Thank you for participating!

The next page is an optional contact information page, which you can detach and return separate from the survey.



ARTIST/ARTS ORGANIZATION CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Inc.

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