

CONTACT US

**SURROGATE MICHAEL R. DRESSLER
BERGEN COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT**

Two Bergen County Plaza
Suite 5000
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 336-6700



BERGEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

15 Bergen Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 488-0044



BERGEN COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION

BERGEN COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT
AND
BERGEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
PRESENT

HOW TO BECOME A COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY IN ADULT GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS

NEW ATTORNEY
MENTOR PROGRAM
2024-2025

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Mentorship - each participant will be paired with an attorney mentor to answer questions, provide guidance and help navigate through cases
- Hands on training - learn oral and written communication skills to be an effective court appointed attorney
- Appear in court and immediately apply the skills learned to real-life situations
- Network - meet and get to know experienced attorneys, Superior Court Judges, and staff at the Surrogate's Court and Superior Court
- Build your resume
- Help Bergen County's most vulnerable adult residents
- Fulfill Madden pro bono requirements¹

¹ New Jersey attorneys who provide at least 25 hours of services in adult guardianship matters are permitted to claim an exemption from the Madden v. Delran, 126 N.J. 591 (1992) pro bono requirement for the subsequent year. The Madden exemption is available to attorneys who are appointed by the court to serve as (i) attorney for an alleged incapacitated person; (ii) Guardian Ad Litem in a guardianship matter; (iii) temporary pendente lite guardian; (iv) permanent guardian of an adjudicated incapacitated person; or (v) special medical guardian.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Complete application
- Interview with Surrogate's Court staff
- Participate in three training programs with the Bergen County Surrogate's Court and/or Bergen County Bar Association
- Agree to handle two pro bono court assignments prior to paid assignments
- Contact your mentor and/or the court with any questions or concerns
- Timely completion of assignments
- Be an active participant
- Provide feedback to the Court

**Together
Everyone
Achieves
More**