

## **Sign up to draft QDROs for low income Michigan residents! A great way to volunteer!**

**M**ost attorneys have the skills necessary to make an important difference in the lives of low income Michigan residents. Increasingly, some Michigan residents are unable to reach pension benefits obtained during a divorce or separate maintenance action because they cannot afford the cost of drafting the required qualified domestic relations order (QDRO). More attorneys are charging extra fees to create a QDRO on top of the cost of the divorce. In many cases legal aid does not have the resources to draft these documents unless they also helped the client with their divorce. There are many low income families and older single women struggling to make financial ends meet because they don't have access to retirement benefits.

The MI-LAPP program of the State Bar of Michigan operates a pro bono QDRO program that empowers volunteer attorneys to draft QDROs for clients of legal aid programs. This is a great way to help out with pro bono family law cases without handling the divorce or meeting with clients!

MI-LAPP actively refers the responsibility of drafting proposed QDROs to volunteers for the benefit of low-income clients throughout the state of Michigan, and they need more attorneys to volunteer to be drafters. Training will be provided upon request.

MI-LAPP strives to:

- provide a critical service to low-income persons in the divorce process;
- prevent divorced and dependent persons from being unnecessarily impoverished due to a divorce;
- effectively utilize the skills of pension and financial specialists to further facilitate legal services to the poor; and
- expand the resources available to legal services providers by providing volunteer assistance in a critical and specialized legal and financial area related to divorce actions.

Remember, MI-LAPP can arrange training on how to draft QDROs, so let MI-LAPP know if you would need it.

If you can help by volunteering your time, please contact:

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