

**DEAR ATTORNEY:**

Our community needs our help!

To assist Virgin Islands residents grappling with legal issues resulting from the destruction of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”) of Virgin Islands Bar Association, in partnership with FEMA and the American Bar Association created a disaster legal aid hotline. The hotline is manned by intake specialists from Louisiana Civil Justice Center, which has a well-established history of providing disaster legal services to individuals in the aftermath of a catastrophic event. If callers require individual assistance they will be referred to an attorney barred in the Virgin Islands. We need attorneys to volunteer to respond to the referrals from the hotline.

Assistance through this hotline is available to U.S. Virgin Islanders affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Callers may need assistance with replacing wills and other important legal documents that were lost in the hurricanes, landlord-tenant issues that developed as a result of property damages, securing FEMA and other benefits, etc. Currently, legal advice is being provided to English and Spanish speaking callers. There is a need to assist French-Creole speakers, so please let us know if you are fluent in that language/dialect.

I promise that you can help even if you have a challenging schedule. As a volunteer attorney, you can accept as little or as many referrals as your time permits. You can also specify your areas of experience so that referrals are aligned with your areas of practice. It takes just a few minutes to sign up to help our community at a time when it most needs us. You may sign up by completing the application found [here](#).

Thank you for your time and please encourage other lawyers to volunteer their time as well to help the U.S. Virgin Islands through this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Casey Payton  
FEMA Disaster Legal Services Virgin Islands Representative  
ABA YLD Virgin Islands Representative