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2009-10 Term

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Honorable Loretta Weinberg  
545 Cedar Lane  
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

Honorable Peter J. Barnes, III  
3 Stephenville Parkway  
Suite 2E  
Edison, NJ 08820

Re: Senate Bill 2881 / Assembly Bill 3968 - Imposes temporary requirement on county treasurer to forward \$300 from certain mortgage execution sales to provide funding for Legal Services of New Jersey.

Dear Senator Weinberg and Assemblyman Barnes:

The Middlesex County Bar Association writes to express strong support of S-2881/A-3968.

Specifically, the bill requires that plaintiffs in residential mortgage foreclosure actions, at the time of a sheriff's sale or at the sale of the property pursuant to a settlement agreement, if the sale exceeds \$7,000, pay a fee of \$300 to the county treasurer. The county treasurer will forward this fee to the State Treasurer for deposit into the Legal Services Trust Fund, established by this bill as a non-lapsing revolving fund in the Department of the Treasury.

The fund poses great advantages because the fee will be credited with interest and earnings on moneys in the fund. Additionally, the State Treasurer will perform an annual audit of the fund and issue an annual report on the use of the fund.

More importantly, the fee, which will expire after 5 years, would be deposited into the Legal Services Trust Fund and aid in maintaining legal services to low-income clients with legal problems including housing, consumer, family and other civil legal matters.

Accordingly, the MCBA urge you to support S-2881/A3968.

Respectfully,

*Angela Foster*

ANGELA FOSTER  
Board Trustee

AF/jpc

Cc: All Middlesex County Legislators  
New Jersey State Bar Association  
All New Jersey County Bar Associations  
New Jersey Law Journal