

2026 NJSOP Legal Service Plan

The 2026 Legal Service Plan is available to all members of the Society who are current with their dues. **The Plan is being provided FREE as a member benefit to full paying dues members at the 6th year member level.** Members at the 1st through 5th year membership levels, partial practice members, residents, those receiving a waiver, and practicing Life members can purchase this benefit January – September for **\$50**. Enrollment October – December will require member to pay for the current year AND the following year for a total of \$100. Enrollment information is listed below under FAQ “How do I enroll and use the plan?”

The plan provides for up to two hours of cost-free consultation and/or representation from Mr. James A. Schragger, Esq. - Schragger, Schragger and Lavine, L.L.C. for the following benefits only:

- All inquiries by the NJ State Board of Optometrists, or other state regulatory boards, with regard to your practice of optometry, asking for information which may be used in a possible future hearing.
- Telephone availability when a State investigator arrives at your door.
- A thorough review of the conduct or activity which may be the subject of an inquiry against a covered doctor.
- A telephone consultation with a covered doctor in order to formulate an appropriate course of action.
- Review of records, documents and submissions to a state regulatory board regarding your practice of optometry (not only the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists but also any other regulatory board).
- Attendance at conferences with any state board, its investigators or the Attorney General's Office on behalf of a covered doctor.
- General telephone advice assisting and interpreting the Optometry Act and Regulations.
- General telephone consultation related to the operation of an optometric practice.

Billing Note: Additional time in 2026 is billed at the discounted fee of \$350 per hour. Discounted rate is contingent on payment within 30 days of invoice. After 30 days, standard rates may apply.

DISCLAIMERS:

- The member to whom the legal services are furnished, and not the NJSOP, is recognized as the client of the lawyer in the legal services matter.
- NJSOP and its affiliates are organized and operated so that no profit is derived from the furnishing, recommending or rendition of legal services by the NJSOP legal service plan lawyers. An administrative fee is collected by the NJSOP from those who pay \$50 per year for the service, to offset the NJSOP money processing, database use, bookkeeping and marketing by the NJSOP staff for the legal service plan.
- To uphold the integrity of our legal service plan, we are dedicated to avoiding conflicts of interest. In accordance with the New Jersey Rules of Professional Conduct, specifically sections 1.7 and 1.8, the legal service plan provider will not aid a member if a concurrent conflict of interest exists. Our legal services plan attorney will conduct thorough conflict checks prior to helping and will encourage transparent communication regarding any potential conflicts that may arise. If a conflict is identified, we will take appropriate measures to address it, which may include discussing alternative arrangements, declining legal services, or, if applicable, offering a reimbursement for legal service plan fees.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Legal Service Plan

What about costs?

In the event that such are incurred on an investigatory inquiry, any investigatory costs and filing fees extended by the firm on your behalf including costs associated with Express delivery, postage, faxing and photocopying are NOT covered services under the plan. **NOTE – A retainer may be required for all non-covered, reduced rate services.**

Will this plan represent me only before the State Board of Optometrists?

No. The plan will represent you in any investigatory inquiry arising out of the practice of optometry before any professional board in New Jersey, including the Board of Medical Examiners or the Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians. The plan does not, however, provide representation to you on any matter which is not the subject of an investigatory inquiry before a professional board in this state, except for those items listed under the Features and Benefits section. For example, if you were called before the medical board, you would be covered; if you wished legal representation on some action that you were considering (i.e., a real estate matter or the sale of your practice), you would not be covered.

Must I use Schragger, Schragger and Lavine, L.L.C. in order to be covered?

Yes. You must use the plan's attorney for any services covered by the plan. For matters beyond the plan's coverage, you may secure the services of Schragger, Schragger and Lavine, L.L.C. at the reduced fee of \$350 per hour in lieu of their customary hourly rates. You may also retain your own attorney on any matter not covered by the plan, who would then be able to consult with attorneys from Schragger, Schragger and Lavine, L.L.C. (at their reduced rate) and take advantage of their particular expertise in this area and help you decide on a legal strategy.

How do I enroll and use the plan?

You must be a 6th year member (NJSOP dues must be paid up to date) to receive the Plan for **FREE**. Members who qualify for this free benefit will automatically be enrolled. Any other membership level may enroll January – September for **\$50** per year. Enrollment October – December will require the member to pay for the current year AND the following year for a total of \$100. Please make your check payable to NJSOP and remit to 4 AAA Drive – Suite 204 – Hamilton, NJ 08691. Note LSP on the memo line. Upon enrollment, you may contact James Schragger, Esq. at (609) 219-0300 or email at james.schragger@schragger.com

Are there any exclusions?

The following are *not* included in the legal service plan:

- Legal services on any matter initiated prior to becoming an NJSOP member;
- Costs associated with Express delivery, postage, faxing and photocopying;
- Costs of experts;
- Legal issues not involving the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists or other State regulatory boards and not involving the practice of optometry;
- Legal consultation and/or representation after the initial two hours have been exhausted.



Questions???

If you need assistance, we're here to help!
Please contact us at 609-323-4012, or visit
us on-line at www.njsop.org