
From: Patel, Swati
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 5:28 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Subject: FW: Just a note

FYI

From: James Burns [mailto:James.Burns@nelsonmullins.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 5:21 PM
To: Patel, Swati; Schimsa, Rebecca
Subject: Just a note

Swati and Becca,

It was great seeing y'all yesterday. One of my partners, George Cauthen, brought to my attention that Nelson Mullins has taken an active role in assisting folks who were affected by the flood. Another one of my partners, Erik Norton, has taken the lead in coordinating our response efforts. We have spent a great deal of time providing information to those in need and coordinating with other groups, such as FEMA, the SC Bar and the Red Cross, to identify and respond to needs. We anticipate the legal needs will pick up further as the FEMA process moves from the application stage to the decision stage. Most of the requests so far have been related to landlord-tenant issues.

To date, we have accomplished the following:

1. Donated \$5,000 to feed hungry children in Richland School District 2 over the weekend because the school district depleted its resources during the flooding during the week without school.
2. Staffed distribution centers and the FEMA disaster recovery center (DRC) in Eastover with lawyers over two different days.
3. Coordinated with the ABA and SC Bar to provide all 7 FEMA DRC's information about free legal assistance through the SC Bar hotline.
4. Covered last night's community meeting in Columbia on behalf of the SC Bar to make sure hotline information was provided.
5. Coordinated with SOLACE from Louisiana to identify training materials on the FEMA process to lawyers taking referrals from the SC Bar hotline.

Here is what is happening for the next week or so:

1. We will cover the remainder of the community meetings in Columbia this week to hand out bar hotline information.
2. We are meeting with FEMA and the ABA's disaster legal services local coordinator on Monday to make sure all those at DRC's are provided necessary legal information, to identify other needs, and coordinate a response.
3. In coordination with the Bar, we are providing hotline information at all of the shelters and distribution centers we can get to.
4. We are available to take hotline referrals as they come in – we will be sending an email encouraging NMRS lawyers to sign up.
5. We will be identifying a local shelter or families to adopt as those that are displaced are moved from shelters to temporary housing.

I did not know we were taking such an active role in coordinating a strong legal response to assist the flood victims. Once I learned of all of the volunteer work, I wanted to share with y'all. We have really worked hard to help bridge any gaps between the SC Bar, the ABA's Disaster Legal Services, and victims that need assistance. Our work continues to make sure we are helping to meet those who need legal assistance.

Thanks for all of the hard work you are doing. If there is a gap that needs filled, please let me know. Appreciate y'all a bunch.

-JB

Nelson Mullins

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