



**CWA LOCAL 1180**  
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO, CLC

## CWA LOCAL 1180 LEGAL SERVICES FUND BENEFITS FOR RETIREES

This document summarizes the civil legal benefits of the **CWA LOCAL 1180 LEGAL SERVICES FUND'S** comprehensive legal services program for retirees provided through the Law Firm of Mirkin & Gordon, P.C. A full description of the program, its benefits and rules can be viewed at [www.cwa1180.org/benefits/retiree](http://www.cwa1180.org/benefits/retiree)

Each benefit is designed to ensure members and their families have access to counsel, ensuring peace of mind in various civil legal matters.

Unless otherwise indicated, these benefits are provided **FREE OF CHARGE** to the member and their eligible dependents as defined by the Fund who reside in the program's covered geographic area (i.e. - the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster Counties in New York and Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Union, Middlesex, Passaic, Morris, Somerset, Mercer and Monmouth Counties in New Jersey.)

### Contact Information for MIRKIN & GORDON, P.C.:

- **Phone:** (516) 466-6030
- **Email:** [info@mirkingordon.com](mailto:info@mirkingordon.com)
- **Website:** [www.mirkingordon.com](http://www.mirkingordon.com)

## Benefits Summary

### **Unlimited Consultation and Educational Benefits**

- **In-Person Consultation Benefit (Free of Charge):** Allows the covered member to schedule an in-person appointment at the Fund Office to consult with an attorney on any legal question or matter.
- **Unlimited Telephonic and Virtual Consultations (Free of Charge):** In addition to in-person appointments at the Fund office, covered members have access to attorneys for unlimited telephonic and virtual consultations on any legal question or matter.
- **Document Review Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides the covered member with unlimited document reviews, including guarantees, leases, and contracts.
- **Identity Theft Protection Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides consultations if the member is a victim of identity theft.

- **Legal Services Seminar Benefit (Free of Charge):** Mirkin & Gordon provides regular in-person and virtual seminars to educate the covered membership on the benefits of the Fund's legal services program and how to take advantage of them.

## **Wills and Estate Planning Benefits for Members, Spouses, Parents and Parents-In-Law**

- **Last Will and Testament Benefit (Free of Charge):** Preparation and execution of a Last Will and Testament.
- **Testamentary Trusts Benefit (Free of Charge):** Creation of Testamentary Trusts in an individual's will to manage and distribute estate assets after their death. For example, a "Minor's Trust" can be created in your will to manage the property of a minor child beneficiary until they reach a specific age.
- **Living Will/Health Care Proxy/Power of Attorney/HIPAA Authorization Benefit (Free of Charge):** Preparation and execution of important advance directive and authorization documents, including living wills, health care proxies, powers of attorney and HIPAA Authorizations. **These documents may also be prepared for eligible adult children of covered members, provided the child designates the member as their legal representative.**
- **Deed Transfer Benefit (Free of Charge) -** Preparation and filing of deeds to transfer ownership of an individual's primary residence.
- **Appointment of Agent to Control Disposition of Remains Benefit (Free of Charge):** Preparation and execution of Disposition of Remains document.
- **Designation of Person in Parental Relation (Free of Charge):** Preparation and execution of Designation of Person in Parental Relation document.
- **Estate Planning Consultation Benefit (Free of Charge):** Consultations on the use of estate planning trusts and other tools for Medicaid long-term care planning, children with special needs, probate avoidance and related issues.

**(Note -** The program does **not** cover the costs of preparation of "living trusts" which take effect during a individual's lifetime and are designed to accomplish more advanced estate planning such as probate avoidance, Medicaid planning, estate tax planning, etc. If a member wishes to explore having a **living trust** prepared, Mirkin & Gordon can refer you to attorneys who specialize in these services and will provide a discount from their usual and customary fees which can range between \$5,000 to \$15,000.)

## **Civil Representation and Litigation Benefits**

- **Divorce Proceeding Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides the covered member with representation if they are a plaintiff or defendant in an uncontested or contested divorce proceeding.
- **Legal Separation Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides the covered member with representation in drafting a separation agreement if they are a plaintiff or defendant in legal separation proceedings.

- **Annulment Proceeding Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides the covered member with representation if they are a plaintiff or defendant in uncontested or contested annulment proceedings.
- **Family Court Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides the covered member with representation if they are a Petitioner or Respondent in Family Court proceedings.
- **Custody Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides the covered member with representation if they are a Petitioner or Respondent in custody dispute proceedings.
- **Legal Defense Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides representation to the covered member in defense of a civil action (excluding criminal matters).
- **Tenant's Rights Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides representation to the covered member as a tenant in defense of summary dispossess proceedings for non-payment of rent, enforcement of tenant rights under both Rent Control Law and Rent Stabilization Law, enforcement of all tenant rights and review of leases.
- **Adoption Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides the covered member with representation in proceedings to formalize an adoption.
- **Change of Name: (Free of Charge):** Provides representation in proceedings to legally change a person's name.
- **Personal Bankruptcy Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides representation to the covered member in proceedings to file for personal bankruptcy.
- **Veterans and Service Affairs Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides representation to the covered member if a military board or agency of the United States has denied your rights as a veteran.

## **Real Estate Benefits**

**Homeowners Rights Benefit (Free of Charge):** Provides the covered member with representation in the sale and/or purchase of a primary residence and mortgage-related matters, including defense of foreclosures.

## **Other Benefits**

- **Estate Probate and Administration Benefit:** Provides representation in probate and intestacy proceedings with a 25% fee reduction on usual hourly rates.
- **Appeal Benefit:** Provides the covered member with representation to appeal a decision of a court of law or administrative agency regarding a civil action **only when the law firm deems the appeal appropriate and would have a likelihood of success.** The member is responsible to pay 25% (up to a maximum of \$150) of the costs of printing the Record of Appeal.