

THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOSHUA R. DIAMOND
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

SARAH E.B. LONDON
CHIEF ASST. ATTORNEY
GENERAL



TEL: (802) 828-3171
FAX: (802) 828-2154
TTY: (802) 828-3665

<http://www.ago.vermont.gov>

STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER
05609-1001

August 20, 2019

Dear Fellow Vermont Attorney:

Studies by the Vermont Foodbank and Feeding America show that one in four Vermonters turn to food shelves and meal service programs to feed themselves and their families. That's around 153,000 of our neighbors, community members, and friends, and an estimated 33,900 children and 26,010 seniors. Vermonters are being forced to make tough choices every day to try and keep food on the table. As I have said previously, I believe that it is our shared privilege to practice law in Vermont. As a member of the Vermont legal community, I believe we have a duty to help those in need when we can. I am happy today to kick off the "*3rd Annual Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive*," and **I am once again calling on you to get involved and consider participating.**

Around this time in both 2017 and 2018, I was proud to announce that my office was collaborating with the Vermont Foodbank and the Vermont Bar Association for our annual "*Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive*" and ask the Vermont legal community to get involved to help those in need.

Over those two years, the event has been an incredible success with 58 Vermont law firms and offices signing up in advance to participate. In the two years, Vermont lawyers have raised over **\$28,000** and collected over **7,000** food items that went directly to the Vermont Foodbank to help those who need it most. Thank you to all who participated last year.

The *3rd Annual Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive* will again run for two weeks in September, which has been designated Hunger Action Month in Vermont. The event will last from **September 9th to September 20th**. We are asking that Vermont law firms and solo practitioners sign up in advance by **returning the attached form by email to Kim.Ingraham@vermont.gov no later than September 6th**. Only one form needs to be returned for each participating law firm/office.

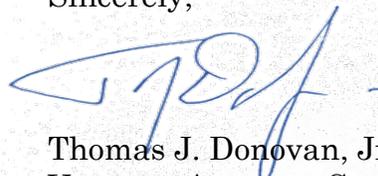
Each firm/office will be asked to designate a food drive coordinator who will be responsible for (a) creating a virtual Food Drive page for the firm/office with tools and technical aids provided by the Vermont Foodbank and (b) starting a donation box in the firm/office where shelf-stable, non-perishable food items can be collected. Monetary donations can also be collected during the Food Drive to help stock the shelves of 215 Vermont Foodbank partner food shelves and meal sites around Vermont. Shelf-stable, non-perishable food items collected can be delivered by the food drive coordinator, or another member of the firm/office, directly to the food shelf or meal site nearest you.

In the spirit of friendly competition, the Attorney General's Office will once again recognize the law firm/offices who raised the highest totals of food/money during the Food Drive at the Vermont Bar Association's Annual Meeting on September 27th. Competition categories and divisions (e.g., large firm/small firm; amount raised based on the number of attorneys and staff) will be determined after sign-up is complete. We hope that this will again bring an element of fun to the event. If your law firm/office would prefer to not participate in the friendly competition aspect of the Food Drive and keep track of food items or monetary donations, you may indicate the choice on the form, and you can still be included in the total amounts contributed.

All law firms and offices that sign up to participate in the **3rd Annual Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive** will be listed in an Attorney General's Office Press Release to announce the start of the event in early-September. A press release reporting the overall totals raised and participating law firms, and offices will follow at the completion of the event. We also encourage participating firms to talk up our collective good work on social media by using the hashtag **#VTLegalFoodDrive**.

I hope that your law firm or office will join my Office, the Vermont Foodbank, and the Vermont Bar Association to make the **3rd Annual Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive** a success so that together we can help make sure that no one in our state needs to go hungry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. J. Donovan, Jr.", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.
Vermont Attorney General

**3rd ANNUAL
LAWYERS FIGHTING HUNGER FOOD DRIVE**

**LAW FIRM/OFFICE SIGN UP
(only one form need be submitted per Vermont Law Firm/Office)**

YES, my Law Firm/Office would like to participate in the “*3rd Annual Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive*” from September 9 through 20, 2019.

My Law Firm/Office will designate a food drive coordinator who will be responsible for: (a) creating a virtual Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive page for the firm/office through the Food Drive event, where members of the Firm/Office can track food items that are gathered or make monetary donations; and (b) start a donation box in the Law Firm/Office where shelf-stable, non-perishable food items can be collected for delivery to my local food shelf or meal site before the Food Drive’s end date. The food drive coordinator will be responsible for tracking the number of food items collected, and will log in the number at their Law Firm/Office’s virtual Food Drive site.

Note: The Vermont Foodbank provides all the tools you will need to set up your virtual Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive Page. Upon receipt of this sign up form, we will send you a link to help create the virtual Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive Page through the Vermont Foodbank’s website.

Law Firm/Office name (as you would like it to appear in Press Releases announcing the event kick-off and completion):

Mailing Address and Law Firm/Office website:

Name of designated food drive coordinator and contact e-mail:

Approximate number of attorneys and staff at Law Firm/Office:

____ solo practice; ____ small/medium firm (2-9 lawyers); ____ large firm (10+ lawyers)

____ Please check here if your Law Firm/Office will participate in the Food Drive but would like to **NOT** participate in the “friendly competition” for most food/money raised by division/category during the event (your firm/office will still be recognized as a participating Law Firm/Office in Press Releases).

Please return this form by e-mail to: Kim.Ingraham@vermont.gov no later than September 6, 2019.