JUSTICE BRIDGE LEGAL INCUBATOR – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
PEER MENTOR – INITIAL PILOT PROGRAM

1. **What is the Justice Bridge incubator?** Justice Bridge is an access-to-justice legal residency program. It provides quality legal representation to clients who cannot afford traditional market rates, while supporting recent law school graduates who wish to develop solo, small firm or non-profit practices.

2. **Who is eligible to participate in the initial pilot program?** Justice Bridge is open to recent law school graduates who are members of the Massachusetts bar in good standing. Applicants must be willing to incorporate as Professional Corporations (a one-time, approximate $500 expense), carry their own malpractice insurance, and pay monthly membership fees that help defray the program’s expenses.

3. **What are the benefits of membership?** Participants in the incubator receive shared, furnished office space in downtown Boston, referrals of legal business, counseling from experienced mentors and peers, practical business skills training, access to support staff, use of a web site and access to a developing technological platform. A second office will launch on the Commonwealth’s South Coast in 2015.

4. **What is the term for participation?** Founding members are asked to commit to an initial six-month, test term and to assist in program evaluations. At the end of that term, participants may become Associate Members of the incubator, but will not have priority access to the program’s personal office space.

5. **What are the monthly membership fees?** Membership fees for initial participants in the pilot program are $500 per month.

6. **Who are the clients?** Justice Bridge is developing a business niche among existing legal service providers and bar associations. Clients will generally have an annual income of 250–300% of the Federal poverty guidelines (approximately $60,000 for a family of four). We expect these clients to pay modest retainer fees and a scaled average of $50 per hour for legal services.

7. **What areas of law will be practiced?** Members will represent clients in a wide variety of civil matters. The incubator will not, however, refer any cases involving criminal law. Practice areas of special concentration include: family law, housing, probate, employment, consumer law, and immigration.
8. **May members handle their own cases while participating in the incubator?** Yes, members are encouraged to develop their own caseload while also accepting legal work from the incubator. Justice Bridge aims to help its members develop profitable and rewarding practices on their own.