

CLINICS AND CENTERS

Self-Help Legal Access Centers assist people with family law matters (divorce, custody disputes, and paternity actions), housing matters (evictions), restraining orders (domestic violence, elder abuse and civil harassment), bankruptcy, and other legal matters such as name changes. Self-Help Legal Access Centers are located in the Van Nuys, Pomona, Chatsworth, Pasadena and Antelope Valley Courthouses. Volunteers are expected to commit to four months or one semester if they are a student for a minimum of 7 hours a week.

Consumer Debt Clinics assist low-income litigants who have been served with credit card lawsuits within the last 30 days. We provide information on what it means to be sued for a debt, the legal process to file an answer, how to prepare an Answer, and the consequences of a judgment. We also discuss ways creditors can collect, ways litigants can protect themselves, and negotiations. Volunteers are expected to commit for a minimum of six months, or one semester if they are a student.

Shriver Housing Self-Help Center assists qualifying individuals with various aspects of the eviction process. Staff provide legal education, interview litigants, review court records and prepare appropriate pleadings. The Center is located in the Los Angeles Superior Court (Stanley Mosk Courthouse). Volunteers are expected to commit for a minimum of six months, or one semester if they are a student, for at least 2 half dayshifts, or one full day per week.

Worker's Rights Clinics assist with unemployment benefits eligibility assessment, application assistance, and claims troubleshooting. Representing claimants at California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board (CUIAB) hearings.

Clean Slate Clinics assist individuals who have been negatively impacted by the criminal legal system. Our services include clearing criminal records and restoration of rights, including assistance with the preparation of expungement forms, Props 47 and 64 petitions, and misdemeanors/felony reductions. Volunteer attorneys are expected to commit to at least four clinics during the first six months of volunteering, or at least one semester if they are a law student. All trainings, supervision, and client appointments are virtual.

Housing Clinics assist tenants with housing issues in LA County. Housing Clinic volunteers may provide legal assistance in one of two ways (i) advice and counsel on pre-litigation matters and/or (ii) limited and full scope representation in an eviction case. The housing issues that volunteers can expect to see during their client appointments include advice/counsel, preparation of responses to termination notices, illegal lockouts, habitability complaints, Section 8 benefits, and landlord harassment. All volunteers are required to complete a series of training modules prior to starting the clinic and commit to staff one clinic a month for a minimum of 3 months.

Education Clinics assist parents and students with special education eligibility, how to advocate for a student's eligibility, and what to do if a student is found ineligible for special education. We represent students in disciplinary hearings and IEP meetings with their schools.

Estates and Probate Clinics assist litigants with drafting documents to create an estate plan, including preparation of trusts, wills, healthcare planning/directives, and financial or general powers of attorney.

FEMA Appeals Clinics assist disaster survivors with preparing appeals of FEMA denials, understanding their rights to FEMA benefits, and providing counsel and advice on FEMA issues.