



Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (805080)

Private Attorney Involvement Annual Plan for 2018

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) receives substantial funding from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). LSC regulations require all grant recipients to prepare an annual Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) plan.¹ The plan must detail how the recipient will spend at least the equivalent of 12½% of the LSC funding on PAI.² The plan must be incorporated as part of the refunding application.³ The plan took into consideration the legal needs of eligible clients in the service area, delivery mechanisms potentially available for private attorney involvement, and comments from the client community, private attorneys, and local bar associations.⁴

LAFLA began in 1929 as a clinic at the University of Southern California Law School utilizing volunteer attorneys and staff to assist the law school faculty. LAFLA continues to expand its association with private practitioners, involving them throughout the Foundation's work. LAFLA's PAI Annual Plan for 2018 proposes to continue and expand on its long-standing program goals and objectives: targeting services to under-served clients within LAFLA's service priorities. LAFLA will also focus on maximizing use of the volunteer pro bono service model by making volunteer opportunities attractive to private attorneys and other volunteers, systematizing record keeping for both professional responsibility and compliance purposes and integrating PAI activities with LAFLA in-house legal work. This plan details how LAFLA intends to continue its current projects and expand into new areas in order to ensure both compliance with the PAI requirement and expansion of LAFLA's pro bono partnerships.

¹ LSC Regulations § 1614.4(a)

² Id.

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

Foundation Priorities

LAFLA's Board of Directors has adopted the priorities listed below for the Foundation based on the legal needs of eligible clients in LAFLA's service areas. These priorities are incorporated into the pro bono work of the foundation.

Support for Families

Legal assistance that supports the integrity, safety, and well-being of the family including, but not limited to issues regarding child care, domestic violence, child support, custody, education, naturalization and immigration services, and access and information to community and financial resources.

Preserving the Home

Legal assistance in matters including, but not limited to: housing (e.g., uninhabitable dwellings, evictions, foreclosure, other threats to homeownership, subsidized housing preservation); assistance to families or individuals who are threatened with homelessness or have become homeless; assistance that enhances safety and security in residential housing and low income communities subject to crime and violence; community economic development addressing the lack of affordable housing and displacement due to redevelopment; neighborhood development and environmental issues; housing discrimination; loss or threat to housing caused by natural disasters.

Maintaining Economic Stability

Legal assistance that enhances the economic viability of families, low income neighborhoods, and individuals including, but not limited to: prevention of unemployment and economic crisis due to joblessness; child support; eligibility for unemployment, disability, aid to needy families, children, individuals and other benefits which preserve a source of income and support for families and individuals; consumer issues threatening basic economic stability, e.g., consumer fraud, credit, and access to financial resources; fraudulent school loans from for-profit schools; unfair business practices that undermine legitimate businesses; and stability of community economic development, e.g., addressing job development, training and education issues; wage claims and employment discrimination; removing barriers to employment.

Safety, Stability and Health

Legal assistance including, but not limited to: addressing domestic violence; contested custody, divorce; foster care, abandonment and adoption of children; access to health care, health support and home care services, including access to mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment; community economic development directed at neighborhood revitalization activities, e.g., educational and recreational facilities for youth, children and seniors.

Populations with Special Vulnerabilities

Legal assistance directed at distinct populations including, but not limited to: elderly persons (e.g., fiduciary and physical abuse; housing issues; access to government services and benefits); homeless population (e.g. housing, benefits; employment); immigrants (e.g., access to housing, benefits; employment; discrimination; consumer fraud and education); non-English speaking populations (e.g., access to resources and services; discrimination); youth and children (e.g, housing, education, immigration, income and support benefits and neighborhood development); physically and mentally disabled persons (e.g., access to medical care; education, employment and housing), illiterate persons (education; employment, consumer fraud and income maintenance), veterans (housing, employment, benefits, education).

Civil Rights

Legal assistance addressing issues of discrimination against individuals who are low-income, racial and ethnic minorities, women, children, individuals with disabilities, elderly, limited English-speaking persons, and immigrants. This includes legal advocacy that includes, but not limited to, discrimination in housing, employment, education, consumer issues; police abuse, access to courts, and defense in civil actions.

The Delivery of Legal Services

LAFLA promotes using technology to increase efficiency, range of service, and outreach through: use of hotlines, law lines, online intake, videoconferencing, *pro per* materials; community education via workshops, written materials, use of media, public service announcements, and online trainings; group education and clinics; use of volunteers including pro bono attorneys, law students, community volunteers and other professionals; collaborative efforts with legal assistance providers and with community based organizations including clients, religious, libraries, business and service organizations.

PAI Staff

Pro Bono Director

The Pro Bono Director, who has been practicing since 2004, administers all in-house pro bono work by working directly with LAFLA staff, local bar associations, private attorneys, law students and other professionals to develop new service delivery projects.

The Pro Bono Director also works with other LAFLA staff to recruit and train volunteers (attorneys, law students, community volunteers, and other professionals) to provide free services at LAFLA's offices and clinics located throughout greater Los Angeles. Pro bono attorneys are recruited to co-counsel, accept placement of cases, and provide research memoranda and other support. Law students, community volunteers and other professionals are recruited to provide legal information, legal assistance and other support in various legal topics to LAFLA clients. The Pro Bono Director also encourages bilingual volunteers to provide legal assistance to limited English proficient (LEP) clients at clinics and to take on pro bono cases. The Pro Bono Director maintains volunteer records

including volunteer personnel files, volunteer records, and cases placed with volunteer attorneys.

Pro Bono Training Staff

In fall 2017, LAFLA's Pro Bono Training Coordinator was upgraded to Pro Bono Training Manager to continue to develop the Pro Bono Training Institute project beyond end of the grant period. The Pro Bono Training Manager also works directly with LAFLA's Pro Bono Director to help develop and implement internal PAI policies and coordinate PAI related projects including recruiting, coordinating, recognizing, and training of volunteers at LAFLA.

In June 2017, LAFLA hired a part time Pro Bono Training Data Collection Assistant to assist with the data collection needs of the 2016 PBIF Language Access grant for the duration of the grant period.

In April 2018, LAFLA will hire a full time Pro Bono Training Design Associate to assist with the administrative process of developing and coordinating pro bono trainings.

Pro Bono Project Liaisons

LAFLA has Pro Bono Project Liaisons who work closely with the Pro Bono Director to develop cases and legal work that are appropriate for volunteer placement within their working groups and legal projects. The Pro Bono Project Liaisons coordinate Working Group projects such as the Pro Bono component of the Los Angeles Shriver Housing Project, Santa Monica Unlawful Detainer Project, VAWA and U-Visa Cases, DVPA Program, Torture Survivor Project, Skid Row Project, Veterans Justice Project, among others. Pro Bono Project Liaisons screen and coordinate cases and legal projects for volunteer placement and work closely with volunteers through co-counseling and by providing technical and substantive support and mentorship on all LAFLA pro bono cases. They also conduct CLE trainings or supervise clinics staffed by volunteers. In 2018, the Pro Bono Director, with the help of the Pro Bono Training Coordinator, will continue to maintain existing volunteer relationships and obtain additional volunteer commitments to support the Pro Bono Project Liaisons and the LAFLA working groups under which they work.

LAFLA Pro Bono Legal Clinics and Workshops

LAFLA includes the clinic model in its menu of service delivery options as a tool for increasing client services and keeping in touch with emerging needs in the client community. The Pro Bono Director will continue to recruit volunteers for the clinics set forth below and will continue to build new initiatives to obtain individual and law firm commitments to volunteer.

Asian and Pacific Islander Clinics

LAFLA staff conducts legal clinics in community-based social service organizations that serve the under-represented Asian and Pacific Islander client community. LAFLA also

operates legal hotlines in six Asian languages to meet the needs of LEP clients in LAFLA's service areas. Once a month, the Korean American Bar Association attorneys and law clerks volunteer at the LAFLA KABA Korean Clinic to provide legal assistance to predominantly Korean speaking individuals. In 2017, approximately 60 pro bono attorneys, law clerks, community volunteers and volunteer interpreters provided assistance to over 110 individuals with their legal issues ranging from family law, housing, consumer rights, immigration, to small claims. In late 2016, LAFLA collaborated with the Karsh Center of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, centered in Koreatown, to host the clinics. This change has enabled more monolingual Korean speaking clients to gain access to free legal services in Korean. The Pro Bono Director will continue to work with staff to recruit bilingual volunteers to staff the clinics and legal hotlines.

Santa Monica Clinics

LAFLA offers twice weekly evening Consumer Law and Landlord/Tenant Clinics at its Santa Monica office. Volunteers have the opportunity to provide counsel and advice to clients or may choose to provide full representation on client cases. In 2017, with help of approximately 70 pro bono attorneys and law student volunteers, the clinic was able to assist local community members with their landlord tenant and consumer issues. The Pro Bono Director works with the Supervising attorneys and local law schools to recruit volunteer lawyers to staff the clinics.

Domestic Violence and Family Law Clinics

LAFLA conducts Domestic Violence and Family Law clinics in the Santa Monica, Long Beach, and downtown Los Angeles courthouses using volunteer attorneys, along with law students and other volunteers. Volunteers help LAFLA staff assist victims of domestic violence obtain restraining orders, dissolution of marriage, custody and visitation orders, child support orders, child abduction orders, and other relief under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. In 2017, approximately 51 pro bono attorneys and other volunteers from the centers assisted clients with their domestic violence and family law issues. In 2018, The Pro Bono Director will work with clinic staff to conduct trainings designed to recruit and prepare private attorneys to represent LAFLA clients at Domestic Violence Restraining Order Hearings and to provide counsel and advice at the clinics.

Employment Law Workers' Rights Clinics

LAFLA's Employment attorneys conduct weekly evening clinic in Downtown Los Angeles to provide community education to workers on their employee rights and to open a broad range of cases, the majority wage-and-hour claims. The Pro Bono Director continues to work with the working group to recruit volunteer lawyers and students to provide employment related volunteer services and to staff the clinics.

Skid Row Clinic

LAFLA's attorneys hold weekly evening skid row clinics, which provide legal services to its most marginalized clients living in or near skid row. Law firm volunteers assist at the clinics by providing counsel and advice in diverse areas of law and by retaining cases for

ongoing legal representation. UCLA and USC law students assist the pro bono attorneys at each clinic. In 2017, approximately 63 pro bono attorneys and law student volunteers provided assistance to over local community members at the clinics, helping them with issues ranging from government benefits, veterans benefits, quality of life citations, housing problems and family law issues. The Pro Bono Director will continue to ensure that the weekly clinics are staffed with UCLA law students and pro bono attorneys.

Expungement Clinic

In April 2013, LAFLA's staff, with support from the LAFLA Associates Advisory Board, developed monthly Expungement Clinics to address the growing demand for expungement assistance from LAFLA's clients. The LA Law Library also partnered with LAFLA to host the monthly clinics at their larger and more accessible location in downtown Los Angeles. LAFLA incorporates the use of its chromebooks to enable volunteers to have easy access to LAFLA's internal documents and pleadings. LAFLA also hosts various expungement clinics throughout the year to address the needs of the community. In 2017, over 83 pro bono attorneys and other volunteers have assisted hundreds of individuals with their record expungement petitions. Since the inception of the clinic and other ad hoc expungement clinics in the community, LAFLA has trained over 500 pro bono attorneys and volunteers to work at the clinics. The Pro Bono Director will continue to develop the project by encouraging pro bono attorneys to volunteer at the clinics and will continue to work with staff to offer additional training opportunities.

Los Angeles Shriver Housing Project and the Eviction Defense Center

In late 2011, LAFLA collaborated with Neighborhood Legal Services, Inner City Law Center, Public Counsel, and the Los Angeles County Superior Court - Stanley Mosk Courthouse to create the Los Angeles Shriver Housing Project through a grant from the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act (AB590). The project provides legal assistance to thousands of unrepresented low-income litigants in unlawful detainer actions at the Stanley Mosk Court. Since 2012, pro bono attorneys and law student volunteers from the Shriver collaborative have represented thousands of clients with answer preparation and counsel and advice at the Eviction Assistance Center. Pro Bono attorneys from over a dozen firms have represented numerous unlawful detainer cases for direct representation at court. In 2018, the Pro Bono Director will work with Shriver partners to develop online trainings on pbtraining.org to continue to recruit and train prospective firms to take on Shriver unlawful detainer cases.

Veterans Justice Center Clinics

LAFLA's Veterans Justice Center (VJC) zealously advocates for low-income veterans and their families in all civil legal areas, including government benefits, housing and eviction defense, citation defense, expungements, military discharge upgrades, child support, consumer law, and more. VJC, in collaboration with pro bono attorneys, runs monthly veteran legal clinics at a number of Los Angeles partner locations and also participates in a number of veterans stand downs events. In 2017, these partnerships resulted in over 50 pro bono volunteers trained to assist hundreds of veterans in the community. Throughout

the year, the Pro Bono Director will continue to work with VJC advocates to develop pro bono opportunities both within and outside of the clinic and law school environments.

Pro Bono Development

Placement of Pro Bono Cases

In addition to hosting many PAI clinics, LAFLA's Pro Bono Director and Pro Bono Liaisons directly place LSC eligible cases with volunteer attorneys on a pro bono basis in almost every substantive area. Volunteers include pro bono attorneys that volunteer internally at LAFLA office and pro bono attorneys who are employed at partner firms. LAFLA Pro Bono Liaisons provide substantive and strategic support on all cases placed with pro bono attorneys and maintain the cases until they are completely resolved. The majority of the PAI placed cases involve housing, eviction defense, domestic violence restraining orders, veteran's issues, VAWA, and other immigration issues. After January 27, 2017, in response to the significant increase of immigration cases and pro bono interest in immigration related pro bono cases, the Pro Bono Director worked closely with the Supporting Families working group to conduct outreach, develop trainings, and place many more immigration cases with pro bono attorneys. The Pro Bono Director will continue to work with staff and respond to community needs to increase pro bono placement of all types of cases.

Using Trainings to Develop Volunteer Needs

In 2017 LAFLA staff provided over 34 targeted in-person pro bono substantive trainings in legal areas including domestic violence, expungements, immigration (U-Visas, VAWA, T-visas), veterans legal assistance and evictions. As a result of these targeted trainings, which include presentation of available cases in the substantive area, LAFLA was able to expand the legal assistance provided to the community.

In late 2014, LAFLA along with partner organizations OneJustice and Neighborhood Legal Services Los Angeles received funding from the LSC Pro Bono Innovation Fund to develop the Pro Bono Training Institute, a state-wide online forum for pro bono legal trainings. The goal of the Pro Bono Training Institute is to create a centralized and more efficient statewide pro bono delivery system and to expand overall pro bono in the state by increasing access to trainings, reducing the creation of duplicative trainings, and facilitating easier recruitment and support of private sector attorneys by providing an online portal to connect LSOs and private attorneys. Through collaboration with pro bono stakeholders in California, PBTI has already developed over 70 online trainings for state-wide use by pro bono volunteers. Over 150 programs have coordinated the use or participated in the development of the trainings. Also, over 3,500 individuals have signed up for the program and watched one or more trainings. In 2018, the Pro Bono Director will continue to work with staff, partner organizations and statewide collaborators to develop and improve additional pro bono trainings and seek additional funding to further develop the project for the benefit of low-income clients throughout California.

Co-Counseling

The Pro Bono Director is responsible for recruiting volunteer attorneys and law firms to co-counsel with LAFLA staff or accept cases for placement from a variety of substantive areas of law. Co-counseling offers many benefits to LAFLA including development of LAFLA staff from more experienced pro bono attorneys and firms and use of firm resources and services. Co-counseling also provides development for newer pro bono attorneys who wish to gain experience while partnering with a LAFLA attorney. In 2017, LAFLA placed cases ranging from student loan dismissal cases to evictions on behalf of low-income tenants. The Pro Bono Director will continue to partner with outside counsel to expand the services to low-income individuals while providing support to co-counsel attorneys. In 2018, the Pro Bono Director will work with the LAFLA Litigation Committee to explore and identify additional ways to increase impact litigation partnerships of interest to firms and meet emerging needs of the community.

Developing Law Students, New Attorneys, and Other Professionals

In 2018 LAFLA will increase its efforts and review its existing volunteer models with managing attorneys to increase the involvement of law students, new attorneys, community volunteers and other professionals in response to the revised LSC PAI rules. This includes volunteer opportunities at LAFLA offices, self help centers, clinics and other outreach services provided to clients. LAFLA recognizes the importance of introducing future attorneys to the needs of the low-income communities. Early introduction to legal services is an important method for gaining pro bono support of private attorneys during their careers in the private sector. Local law schools and firms recognize this and desire our support in raising future attorney awareness. LAFLA will also focus on incorporating other professionals who can provide services in support of legal services, such as tax assistance, social work, interpretation, and research.

LAFLA's Law Student Policy Committee has developed extensive trainings and policies to reflect the needs of the growing number of volunteers new to the legal profession. These include trainings on substantive law and brown bag lunches about the public interest profession and fellowships. The committee has also developed entrance and exit interviews as well as surveys to get feedback on whether volunteers are satisfied with their training, development and overall experiences. Through the Pro Bono Training Institute, LAFLA developed a number of basic pro bono trainings for new volunteers who have limited substantive experience. LAFLA will strive to provide additional services to better develop and train new volunteers and attorneys and provide additional opportunities to incorporate them into legal services work in a meaningful way.

Incubators

Since early 2015, has been a participant of the Los Angeles Incubator Consortium (LAIC), an incubator project funded by the State Bar of California and in partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles, Pepperdine Law School, Southwestern Law School, Public Counsel, Neighborhood Legal Services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Legal Services of Orange County, and the LA Law Library. LAFLA has incorporated a number of LAIC volunteers into its pro bono projects and clinics as a way to provide training and

mentorship in return for their pro bono assistance to clients. LAFLA will continue to find creative ways to both meet the needs of the incubator attorneys and the needs of LAFLA's vulnerable clients as we continue to participate in the incubator project.

Using Technology to Expand Pro Bono and the Delivery of Legal Services

In late 2014, LAFLA received an LSC Technology Innovation Grant to fund a Chromebook-based videoconferencing project to expand access to justice for low-income individuals in greater Los Angeles. In late 2015, LAFLA partnered with the LA Law Library, Palmdale Library, and the Inglewood Public Library to develop remote videoconference clinics as a way to enhance client accessibility and program productivity by bridging the geographic barriers for individuals across Los Angeles County who seek free legal services. The videoconference project uses a customized videoconferencing system to enable LAFLA to remotely link the following parties on a videoconference session with a client: (1) volunteer law student, (2) pro bono attorney, and (3) LAFLA supervising attorney. Since the inception of the videoconference clinics, LAFLA incubator attorneys and volunteer law students have assisted over 800 individuals. In 2016, LAFLA partnered with Southwestern Law School and the Los Angeles Incubator Program to staff the remote clinics. The collaboration applied for and received a grant to support the project through the California Bar Foundation. In 2018, LAFLA will continue to develop the use of videoconferencing to further expand the delivery of legal services for low-income clients in greater Los Angeles.

Using Social Network to Encourage and Highlight Pro Bono Efforts

LAFLA's Communications Manager uses social media to showcase pro bono involvement and its impact on LAFLA's overall work by highlighting successful projects, volunteers, and firms. Tweets are provided to update followers on status of key victories and on outcomes of collaborative work. Regular posts on Facebook highlight upcoming clinics or the successful results of volunteer assistance at clinics and projects. Press releases are regularly issued when impact litigation is filed to feature key pro bono partners and their expertise in handling meaningful cases. The Pro Bono Director will continue to work with the Communications Manager to increase pro bono awareness through social media.

Recognition of Pro Bono Partners

LAFLA strives to find creative ways to recognize the dedication and generous commitments of pro bono volunteers who support LAFLA's client communities. At LAFLA's annual Access to Justice Dinner, LAFLA gives the Pro Bono Award to a key pro bono firm as recognition for providing the highest level of pro bono services to LAFLA's clients. For internal LAFLA volunteers that donate more than 300 hours of service, LAFLA provides certificates of appreciation. For other especially dedicated volunteers, LAFLA provides items such as T-shirts or canvas LAFLA bags. In 2018, LAFLA will strive to find other ways to incorporate volunteer recognition for its dedicated volunteers.

Conclusion

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles continues to seek ways to improve and increase the delivery of quality legal services—guided by the Foundation’s Priorities—to eligible clients within LAFLA’s service area. Expanding the use of volunteer attorneys through increased recruiting and recognition is an integral part of our continued growth and success.

Submission for Comment

Regulations of the Legal Services Corporation require recipients, as part of the procedure of developing an annual PAI Plan, to “consult with significant segments of the client community, private attorneys, and bar associations, including minority and women’s bar associations, in the recipient’s service area in the development of its annual plan to provide for the involvement of private attorneys in the provision of legal services to eligible clients and shall document that each year its proposed annual plan has been presented to all local bar associations within the recipient’s service area and shall summarize their responses.”⁵

The plan was submitted to following voluntary bar associations within LAFLA’s service area which are registered with the State Bar of California, along with client councils and community partners that work with LAFLA. No responding comments were received by LAFLA.

Voluntary Bar Associations in LAFLA’s Service Area

Arab American Lawyers of Southern California
Asian Pacific American Bar of L.A. County
Asian Pacific American Women’s Alliance
Association of Defense Counsel of Southern California
Beverly Hills Bar Association
Beverly Hills Bar Association Barristers
Black Women Lawyers Association of L.A., Inc.
Century City Bar Association
Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles
Culver Marina Bar Association
Eastern Bar Association of Los Angeles County
Federal Bar Association
Glendale Bar Association
Newport Harbor Bar Association
Iranian American Lawyers Association
Italian American Lawyers Association
Japanese American Bar Association of Los Angeles
John M. Langston Bar Association
Korean American Bar Association
Latina Lawyers Bar Association
Lawyers’ Club of Los Angeles
Lesbian & Gay Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

⁵ 45 CFR § 1614.4(b) (2006)

Long Beach Bar Association
Los Angeles County Bar Association
Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers
Mexican American Bar Association of Los Angeles
National Lawyers Guild, Los Angeles Chapter
Pasadena Bar Association
San Fernando Valley Bar Association
San Gabriel Valley Bar Association
Santa Clarita Valley Bar Association
Santa Monica Bar Association
South Asian Bar Association of Southern California
South Bay Bar Association of L.A. County, Inc.
Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association
Whittier Bar Association
Women Lawyers' Association of Los Angeles

LAFLA Client Board Members

Karen J. Adelseck, *Long Beach Senior Latino Club*
Felix Garcia, *Westside Center for Independent*
Silvia Hernandez, *Downtown Women's Action Coalition*
Angelita Herrera, *Los Angeles Community Action Network*
Clementina Lopez, *Strategic Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education*
Jose Lopez, *No affiliation*
John Maldonado, *Los Angeles Community Action Network*
Louise Mbella, *Los Angeles Community Action Network*
C. Cleo Ray, *WISE*
Craig O. Roberts, *Los Angeles Community Action Network*
Kareen Sandoval, *Korean Youth Community Center*
Linus Shentu, *Los Angeles Community Action Network*
Patricia Vining, *South Los Angeles Clients Advisory Council*
Wesley Walker, *Los Angeles Community Action Network*

LAFLA Community Partners:

Inglewood Library
Karsh Center
Korean Resource Center
Korean Youth Community Center
LA CAN
LA Law Library
LA Voice – PICO
Long Beach Senior Latino Club
Palmdale Library
South Los Angeles Clients Advisory Counsel
Strategic Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education
Thai CDC