

CITIZENS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT/FAMILY MEDIATION: Attorneys serve as mediators for the OCBA sponsored program. 45 slots for the Citizens Dispute Settlement Program and 22 slots for Family Mediation. Annual schedule is set in January. Slots are filled on a first come basis with preference for government and in-house corporate counsel. Fills early in mid-December.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PANEL: Opportunities to serve the community include: attending community fairs, giving substantive law presentations, participating in intake outreach on particular area of need, or one day advice clinics. 20 hours. For information contact Larri Thatcher, Intake Coordinator at lthatcher@legalaidocba.org.

EARNED INCOME TAX CLINIC: Attorneys provide assistance to working poor taxpayers with preparing their returns. Participants are expected to be available for 7 to 9 dates in January-April 2017. The LAS VITA site is also open year round and volunteers can assist throughout the year.

HOMELESS ADVOCACY PROJECT: Attorneys conduct intake at a variety of food and shelter sites around Orange County each month. Cases identified for specific legal assistance can be handled by the interviewing attorney or referred through the pro bono panel. For information contact Jay Mobley, Homeless Project Coordinator at JMobley@legalaidocba.org.

NONPROFIT INCORPORATION PROJECT: Attorneys assist eligible community groups with initial incorporation and obtaining 501c (3) status. 7 slots.

TEEN COURT: This diversion program was created to help juveniles accused of misdemeanors. Juveniles appear at a court composed of teens as prosecutor, defense attorney, and jury. Attorneys serve as advisors and trainers. 45 slots. First come basis, preference to government and in-house corporate counsel.

TEEN PARENT EDUCATION PROJECT: A pro bono attorney teaches a substantive law high school class in Orange County Public Schools' teen parenting class. Participants teach once a month from a curriculum for 7 classes during regular school days, about 26 hours annually including classes, prep, and training. For more information contact Marie Priebe at mpriebe@legalaidocba.org.

TELEPHONE SCREENING: The project takes place on 7 Saturday mornings at the Legal Aid office from 8:45 a.m. until noon. Attorneys answer phones and screen callers for eligibility and make appointments or appropriate referrals. Preference to government attorneys and in-house corporate counsel.

VALOR PROJECT OF ORANGE COUNTY: Attorneys conduct intake at either Lake Nona or Baldwin Park VA Medical Centers. Annual calendar set in January and attorneys must commit to 8 clinics minimum. Cases identified for specific legal assistance can be handled pro bono by the interviewing attorney or referred through the pro bono panel. For more information contact Jay Mobley, VALOR Project Coordinator at JMobley@legalaidocba.org.

For information on projects contact Cathy Tucker, Pro Bono Coordinator at ctucker@legalaidocba.org.

CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY

- Become a member of the President's Circle with a gift of \$5,000 or more.
- Make a one time gift in any amount, or a regular recurring monthly gift via credit card, by using our convenient online giving option. Simply go to our website at www.legalaidocba.org.
- Give a gift of appreciated stock, and receive maximum tax benefits.
- Consider including Legal Aid in your Estate Plan. You can do so by means of a simple Bequest, a Charitable Trust or Annuity, a Life Estate, or other estate planning instruments.

For more information about making a gift to the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, contact Donna Haynes, Development Director, at dhaynes@legalaidocba.org, 407-515-1850.

**Legal Aid Society of the
Orange County Bar Association, Inc.**
100 East Robinson Street
Orlando, FL 32801
Phone: 407-841-8310
Fax: 407-648-9240
E-mail: info@legalaidocba.org
www.legalaidocba.org



**Legal Aid Society
of the
Orange County Bar
Association, Inc.**

**2018
PRO BONO
PROGRAMS**

Dear Orange County Bar Member:
In Orange County, Florida we believe that "Equal Justice Under the Law" is more than just an inscription over the bench. For more than 50 years, the members of the Orange County Bar Association have committed themselves to equal justice, regardless of income status, by volunteering their time and by funding our own legal services agency. The lawyers and staff at the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar, Inc. and this Bar's panel of pro bono lawyers provide essential legal services to over 1,200 new clients every year. Our most vulnerable community members should have the doors of justice equally open to them. Through our Legal Aid Society and through volunteers like you, the most vulnerable in our society--abused and neglected children, victims of domestic violence, the elderly, and those losing their homes--receive crucially needed legal services. Thank you for your volunteer efforts and thank you for your financial contributions. Your commitment to "Equal Justice Under the Law" reminds us all of why the Orange County Bar Association is the best Bar in the world!

Melody B. Lynch,
Lowndes Drosdick
Doster Kantor & Reed
President,
Board of Trustees



TAKE CASES

CONSUMER: Many consumer related issues are referred to pro bono attorneys. Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcies are the most frequent areas of referral. Car repossession, debt collections and student loans are some of the other types of cases referred.

FAMILY: This is the area of the greatest number of requests for services. Dissolution of marriage with custody, child support, and domestic violence issues has always an important need. The next area of great need is in custody for minor children, as well as guardianships for adults and with Seniors First, the public guardian.

HOUSING: A variety of housing and housing related cases are referred. Eviction defense of a private landlord/tenant rental is the most common referral. There are also disputes about the conditions of the rental unit and security deposits. There are also issues related to the home of the client, such as deeds and fraud.

IMMIGRATION: A variety of legal issues primarily for victims of violence and children. Primarily for attorneys with some knowledge of immigration, although trainings are offered.

VETERANS: In partnership with the local VA Hospital our VALOR Project has grown and gained national recognition. We have established special criteria for veterans and will refer cases in the following areas: simple wills,

advance directives, power of attorney, some child support and custody matters.

OTHER: These include appeals of civil cases in a variety of forums but NOT GAL appeals, expungement/sealing of criminal record, and simple wills and related documents for special projects. For more information please contact Cathy Tucker, Pro Bono Coordinator, ctucker@legalaidocba.org.

BE A GUARDIAN AD LITEM

GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM: Pro bono attorneys serve as advocates for children in the juvenile and criminal division of the circuit court. The majority of cases involve abused, abandoned, and neglected children who are the subject of juvenile dependency cases. GALs are appointed in juvenile delinquency and criminal division cases to represent the child victim or witness. Occasionally, a GAL is appointed to a minor defendant in a delinquency case to provide best interest representation, not to serve as the child's attorney in the delinquency action. 1,300 children in Orange County are represented through the GAL Program. Approximately 400 attorneys and 80 lay volunteers participate.

For information about volunteering, training, support services, and other issues please contact Bethanie Barber, GAL Program Director at bbarber@legalaidocba.org.

PARTICIPATE IN PROJECTS

AIDS SPECIAL WILL PROJECT: Pro bono attorneys provide simple wills and related documents to persons with AIDS, ARC, and who are HIV positive. Attorneys interview clients at support groups such as Centaur, Hope & Help, and Miracle of Love. Four monthly intakes are required of each participant, 15 slots available.

ATTORNEYS FIGHTING FOR SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN: Attorneys provide assistance for families with children who are suffering from a critical illness in areas such as insurance, wills, trusts, credit problems, bankruptcy, and other issues. Panel attorneys do not do litigation work but provide advice and counseling.

BANKRUPTCY PRO SE ASSISTANCE CLINIC: Pro bono attorneys volunteer for a minimum of 16 hours with the Middle District's Clinic and take one case referral from Legal Aid. The Clinic provides pro se assistance on site at the Middle District Court.