BE LEGAL AID

Intake/ Non Guardian ad Litem

Legal Aid remains a local program with core support from volunteers whose dedication enables it to provide civil legal services primarily on Orange County. Legal Aid is especially proud of its pro bono programs.

We assist with the following types of cases:

• Family Law
• Consumer Law
• Housing Law
• Sealing/ Expunction
• Immigration

How would you like to help? Please check all applicable:

_____ Pair with an attorney to handle cases:

______ Family
______ Consumer
______ Housing
______ Immigration
______ Wills for Veterans
______ Seal/ Expunction of Records

_____ Phone Screening at the LASOCBA office

_____ Attend community education events and/ or interview clients

_____ Attend community education events and give general information about LASOCBA

_____ Interview clients at the LASOCBA office one day each week

_____ Interview clients at one of our five outreach offices once a month

_____ Other (please specify): ___________________

When are you available to volunteer?
Please check all applicable:

_____ During the workday
_____ Before the workday
_____ After the workday
_____ Weekends
_____ During the lunch hour
_____ Other (please specify):

What steps must I take to become a volunteer?

• Submit the completed paralegal pro bono preference form to LASOCBA.

• Submit to a criminal background and employment verification check, at no expense to you (instructions provided upon receipt of your form).

For more information, please contact:
Larri T. Thatcher,
Pro Bono Director
lthatcher@legalaidocba.org

PLEASE RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO:
LEGAL AID SOCIETY of the OCBA, INC.
100 EAST ROBINSON STREET
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32801

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (407) 841-8310
FAX NUMBER: (407) 648-9240

CONTACT DATA

Name: __________________________

Firm: __________________________

Address: _______________________

FL Bar No.: _____________________

Phone: __________________________

Fax: ____________________________

Email: __________________________

I speak a foreign language (specify):

______________________________

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? Branch: ________________

A COPY OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF THE O.C.B.A.'S OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE 1-800-HELP FLA (1-800-435-7352) IN STATE OR AT THE WEBSITE, WWW.FRESHFROMFLORIDA.COM. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM

Pro bono attorneys serve as advocates for children who are subjects of parental abuse, abandonment, or neglect. On occasion, GALs also serve in child best interest representation in criminal, domestic relations, and delinquency cases.

Last year, Legal Aid received judicial requests to assist over 800 children in dependency court.

Be a Volunteer Advocate for Children (VAC)

A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interest of a dependent child. All GALs in Orange County are attorneys. VACs are caring adult volunteers trained by the Legal Aid Society GAL Program to work with attorney GALs to visit with dependent children, their caregivers, and other dependency parties.

Through communication with the child, parties, and service providers, VACs convey up-to-date information to GALs about what is occurring in the life of the dependent child, as well as participate in out-of-court meetings involving the child.

What are the preliminary steps to become a VAC?

- Submit completed paralegal pro bono preference form
- Attend a free three-hour VAC training
- Submit to a criminal background check, at no expense to you. Fingerprint instructions provided at VAC training.

How would you like to help as a VAC?

Please check all applicable:

- Visit with a child and provide a written visit report of your observations.
- Draft pleadings for pro bono GALs.
- Gather child records.
- Attend out-of-court meetings on behalf of the GAL to advocate for the child’s best interest.
- Review and interpret child records to monitor the child’s progress in education, socialization, or a specific area of need, i.e.– mental health.
- Work with children in courts other than dependency court. Please select:
  - Criminal
  - Domestic Relations
  - Delinquency Court

When are you available to serve as a VAC?

Please check all applicable:

- During the workday
- Before the workday
- After the workday
- Weekends
- During the lunch hour
- Other (please specify):

For more information about volunteering, training, support services, and other needs, please contact:

Leah Dual
GAL Program Director,
dlual@legalaidocba.org