

**FAMILY MEDIATION:** Attorneys serve as mediators for the OCBA sponsored program. Attorneys sign up through LAS and the names are given to the OCBA. 22 slots are available. The annual schedule is set in January. Slots are filled on a first come basis with preference for government and in-house corporate counsel. Usually fills by mid-December.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION:** Opportunities to serve the community include: attending community fairs, giving substantive law presentations, participating in outreach on particular area of need, or one day advice clinics. 20 hours. For information contact Laura Sanchez at [lsanchez@legalaidocba.org](mailto:lsanchez@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 January-April 2021. 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](mailto:JMobley@legalaidocba.org).

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

**INTAKE:** Attorneys conduct Intake at the downtown LASOCBA office nights and weekends. Must commit to 6 dates throughout the year.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:JMobley@legalaidocba.org).

For information on projects, contact Larri Thatcher, Pro Bono Director, at [lthatcher@legalaidocba.org](mailto:lthatcher@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 recurring monthly gift via credit card, by using our convenient online giving option. Simply go to our website at [www.legalaidocba.org](http://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](mailto:dhaynes@legalaidocba.org), 407-515-1850.



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

2021

PRO BONO  
PROGRAMS

**Legal Aid Society of the Orange County  
Bar Association President's Message**

**We Were Made for this Moment**

These are challenging times. The global pandemic and economic downturn have impacted the Legal Aid Society's clients particularly hard. But this is exactly why we exist. We provide pro bono legal services for our community's most vulnerable. But we cannot do it alone. We need your help.

For more than 50 years, the members of the Orange County Bar Association have committed themselves to access to justice, regardless of income status, by volunteering with and financially supporting the Legal Aid Society. Your support allows the Legal Aid Society to provide essential legal services to those in need, including abused and neglected children, victims of domestic violence, the elderly, veterans, and those losing their homes. This year, please volunteer to take two pro bono cases or contribute financially (or both). Your help is needed now more than ever. With your help, we will meet this challenge because the Legal Aid Society was made for this moment.

**Kristopher  
Kest, Esq.**

President,  
Board of Trustees



**TAKE CASES**

**FAMILY:** This is the most frequently requested service area. Assistance with dissolution of marriage, child support, and domestic violence issues remain in critical need. We also help with custody for minor children, as well as guardianships for adults when Seniors First has been appointed, and Guardian Advocacy for relatives.

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

**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 rental units and security deposits. Issues related to loss of homestead such as foreclosure are also referred.

**IMMIGRATION:** We refer a variety of immigration issues, primarily for victims of violence. We get some requests to assist with children's issues, TPS, and DACA. We also refer work authorization and green card renewals.

**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 most of our cases are simple wills, advance directives, and power of attorney.

**SEALING AND EXPUNCTION:** In Partnership with local employment agencies we assist job seekers in sealing or expunging eligible records.

**OTHER CASES:** These include appeals of civil cases in a variety of forums, simple wills and related documents for special projects, small probate and some consumer fraud.

*For more information please contact Larri Thatcher, Pro Bono Director,  
lthatcher@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 subjects 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. 1,400 children in Orange County are represented through the GAL Program.

*For information about volunteering, training, support services, and other issues please contact Leah Dual, GAL Program Director at*

**PARTICIPATE IN PROJECTS**

**HIV SPECIAL WILL PROJECT:** Pro bono attorneys provide simple wills and related documents to persons who are HIV positive. Attorneys interview clients at support groups such as Aspire, Hope & Help, and Miracle of Love. Monthly intakes are required of each participant, 9 slots available.

**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. Cases assigned by Legal Aid are primarily Chapter 7's and some limited Chapter 13's.

**CITIZENS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT:** Attorneys serve as mediators for the OCBA sponsored program. Attorneys sign up through Legal Aid. The OCBA is given a list of names and will set the schedule in January. 45 slots for the Citizens Dispute Settlement are available. Slots are filled on a first come basis with preference for government and in-house corporate counsel. Fills by in mid-December.