

Senior Citizens Law Project

The Senior Citizens Law Project, sponsored by the City of Las Vegas, provides limited legal services to senior citizens, age 60 or above. Partially funded by a federal grant under the Older Americans Act, the SCLP does not charge for services and focuses on providing legal services to those elderly persons in the greatest socio-economic need. If the SCLP declines representation in a matter, referrals are made to State Bar of Nevada's Lawyer Referral Program, Nevada Legal Services, Clark County Legal Services, Clark County pro Bono, and other appropriate community resources.

SCLP currently assists seniors in the following areas: simple wills (assets \$50,000 or less), advance directives to physician, durable power of attorney for healthcare decisions, homestead, termination of joint tenancy, consumer disputes, small claims instructions, landlord tenant disputes, public entitlement difficulties, legal advice, and referrals. At present SCLP does NOT handle living trusts, guardianship petitions, malpractice cases, divorce or custody issues, criminal matters, traffic violations, bankruptcies, real estate transactions, personal injury, or fee generating cases in general.

The SCLP is currently staffed by 3 licensed attorneys (the Director being one), two paralegals, and support staff. In the 2003/04 grant year the SCLP opened in excess of 2000 files and saved senior clients in excess of \$250,000.00.

Externs could expect to assist, and eventually perform, will interviews, consumer disputes interviews and letter drafting, discuss landlord tenant questions, assist clients to fill out forms, and explain hearing and court proceedings. Externs would experience being a mandatory reporter of elder abuse, and if appropriate, make the reporting telephone calls. In addition, externs would be part of the daily functioning of a public office. Externs would be exposed to the very wide range of problems seniors in which find themselves embroiled.

The Senior Citizens Law Project also sometimes hosts or co-hosts seminars and public events to promote educating the public about assorted areas of the law. Everyone in the office becomes involved in these community events which have included presentations on investment scams, predatory lending, planning for incapacity, and consumer law.

Due to the small size of the office, externs would be exposed to all aspects of a small public service organization. They would be asked to become involved in a myriad of issues regarding public service law.

For further information, please contact Julie Arnold, J.D., at the Senior Citizens Law Project.