



Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission

Meeting - Friday, November 15, 2024 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nvbar.zoom.us/j/87353980443>

- 888 475 4499 US Toll-free
- 877 853 5257 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 873 5398 0443

You may simply click the link to join with computer audio if your computer has speakers/microphone.

If your computer does not have speakers/microphone or you are in a location where audio would disturb others you may use your phone for audio.

Meeting Agenda

I. Opening Statements from Co-Chairs & Commission Roll Call	5 minutes	
II. Consent Agenda	5 minutes	Tab 1
• Approval of June 14, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes		
III. Discussion Items		Tab 2
• ATJC Application for Approved Status	15 minutes	
• CLE Requirements for Inactive EAPB 49.1(1)(b) Attorneys	10 minutes	
• Statewide Self-Help Rollout with Ask-A-Lawyer	10 minutes	
• Unbundling Rule Update	5 minutes	
• Peremptory Challenges	5 minutes	
• Sealed Cases	5 minutes	
• Service Rule Clarification	5 minutes	
○ Online alternative to publication		
• Commission Membership Vote	5 minutes	
• IOLTA – Rate Decision, Bank Outreach	5 minutes	
• 2025 Section Pro Bono Challenge & Pro Bono Profiles	5 minutes	
• 2025 Initiatives	5 minutes	
• Rachel Anderson UNLV Rural (June <i>Nevada Lawyer</i>)	7 minutes	
• Legislative and Eviction Diversion Update	5 minutes	
• Elder Grant – Library Legal Kiosk Program Update	5 minutes	
• Supervised Task Force	5 minutes	
IV. Legal Aid Provider Reports	10 minutes	
V. Other Business	5 minutes	



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VI. Informational Items

Tab 3

- Awards
 - Justice Pickering was the Honoree at the Southern Nevada Senior Law Program’s Salute Senior Advocates event.
 - Access to Justice Commission received the Partner Organization of the Year Award from Nevada Legal Services at their Champions of Justice event.
- Legal Aid Provider Highlights
- Self-Help Center Statistics
- Triannual Provider Call Recap

Upcoming Access to Justice Commission Meetings

Meetings are Fridays at 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

2025 meetings

March 28

June 20

November 21

Our Purpose

- Assess current and future civil legal needs.
- Develop statewide policies to improve legal service delivery.
- Improve self-help and pro bono services.
- Increase public awareness of the impact of limited access to justice.
- Investigate and pursue increased funding.
- Recommend legislation or rules affecting access to justice.

Key Nevada Supreme Court Strategic Plan Strategies

- Simplify and improve public access to the courts while continuing to ensure that all parties are treated fairly.
- Support sustainable and user-focused court innovations to improve the delivery of court services.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Access to Justice Commission Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 14, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present

Justice Kristina Pickering, Co-Chair
Rachel Anderson
Annette Bradley
Mark Brandenburg
Alex Cherup
Judge Cynthia Cruz
Diane Fearon
John Fortin
Dawn Jensen
Ann Walsh Long
Victoria Mendoza
Jennifer Richards
Judge Bridget Robb
Marisa Rodriguez
Doreen Spears Hartwell
Judge Connie Steinheimer
Michael Wendlberger
Judge Nathan Tod Young

Guests Present

Zeynep Akgedik
Bailey Bortolin
Barbara Buckley
Chantyel Hasse
Justin Iverson
Stephanie McDonald
Susan Myers
Jonathan Norman
Kelli Radnothy
Emily Reed
Brandon Smith
David Spitzer
Katherine Stocks

Staff Present

Brad Lewis

Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes

The Access to Justice Commission meeting was called to order. Justice Pickering welcomed all and shared that Justice Stiglich is very sorry she is unable to attend but that she is looking forward to joining the next meeting. Diane Fearon also shared that former Judge Voy was also unable to attend. Justice Pickering then asked that a roll call be conducted. She asked if changes to the March minutes were necessary. Hearing none she requested approval. The minutes were voted unanimously and adopted for the record.

Update on Statewide Electronic Filing

Katherine Stocks, director and state court administrator (Administrative Office of the Court, AOC) for the Nevada Supreme Court, joined the Commission meeting to provide an update on statewide electronic filing. She shared that \$9.725 million of American Rescue Plan funds were awarded to the AOC to implement statewide e-filing systems. In 80% of Nevada courts there is no e-filing. The funding is contingent upon not passing the costs on to courts or filers.

She shared early results showing solid progress toward completion in the 10th District, with additional progress in the 4th District, Elko Justice Court, Hawthorne Justice Court, and Pahrump Justice Court. All



courts interested in the standalone/non-CMS integrated system are live and any courts wishing to be added may be. For the AOC-hosted Courtview CMS integration, 50% is completed, including a Mesquite Justice Court pilot. Additional pilot courts are being sought. Work with Tyler Technologies and Journal Technologies are in process.

A key benefit seen is for pro se litigants, making filing more convenient, accessible, and faster with improved accuracy. Supporting information is more readily accessible, along with user-friendly tools and support. A key focus has been on Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA) guidance which puts a focus on the user experience. Challenges include some courts awaiting CMS integrations to advance and legislation for future funding. On the user side, the main issue is filing in the wrong court. Nine courts are willing to go live without integrating into their CMS, and early results show that self-represented litigants (SRLs) are e-filing and the program has generated early bar support.

Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure (NRAP)

Justice Pickering shared that there have been recent revisions to the NRAP bringing it into the modern age. On June 7, 2024, the Nevada Supreme Court issued an order in [ADKT 0580](#) amending the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure. The amended rules are effective prospectively on August 15, 2024, as to all pending cases and cases initiated after that date.

The court further ordered that these amended rules shall control when conflicts arise between these amended rules and any other court rules. For the benefit of the bench and the bar and to facilitate the transition from the existing rules to the new rules, attached to the order as [Exhibit A](#) is a redline of the revised NRAP against the existing NRAP. A clean copy of the revised NRAP is attached as [Exhibit B](#).

Criteria and Application to be Approved by the Commission

Brad shared that inquiries to be approved by the Commission have increased over time, and that the Statewide Service Delivery Plan (SSDP) calls for an application to be in place but one has never been developed. Often people seek to become approved by the Commission to bypass Nevada bar admissions policies and hire lawyers under SCR 49.1. This, of course, is not the purpose of approval. Therefore, a conversation has been happening about advancing on an ATJC application. However, there are key considerations, including not negatively impacting current Nevada legal aid providers, how IOLTA funds may be handled, and not jeopardizing SCR 49.1 allowing for limited practice admissions for Emeritus Pro Bono Attorneys which has been critical to building legal aid programs in Nevada.

It is proposed that the Commission organize a committee to discuss. Barbara Buckley sought insights from Justice Hardesty on this subject and he shared that he would be happy to chair such a committee if it was formed. She noted that there is an extreme shortage of legal aid attorneys, but SCR 49.1 and 2 are rules that legal aid holds dear and that have allowed legal services to expand in Nevada. A rigorous process is needed to ensure any new provider meets the qualifications outlined in the SSDP and other parameters that the committee could discuss.



Judge Robb moved to establish a committee to review criteria and an application process. It was seconded and voted unanimously. Brad to form a committee of providers and others chaired by Justice Hardesty that meets to bring ideas to the November ATJC meeting.

Service Rule Clarification

While the main discussions surrounding this have been how to avoid costly service by publication for SRLs, Justice Pickering wondered if advancing on this issue is best served by litigation v. a rule change. She noted that there often seems to be a disconnect when rules are tweaked from time-to-time v. a full rule rewrite. Stephanie McDonald indicated that she often sees SRLs unable to pay for publication and it does often seem less effective than other service methods, and that maybe legal aid can find the right case to bring up. Brad shared that so far this has been discussed by the Service Rule Committee within the ATJC, with Ms. McDonald participating along with Rachael Mastel, who was on the original committee, along with others. Two options for proceeding could be to reconstitute the original committee or continue with an ATJC committee.

Justice Pickering does not think the original committee should be reconstituted as Chief Justice Cadish was the original chair and now has a lot on her plate. Also, there is a concern about due process if service by publication is eliminated. One idea was to move directly to an ADKT so that an open and public discussion could be had about the concerns. Certainly the service rules will need revising in the future due to today's advancing technology.

Judge Robb shared her hesitancy and concerns regarding a case served pursuant to the rules but that did not have proper notice. These rules can be used by bad actors. Rules that promote good faith efforts are important. Ms. McDonald agreed and emphasized that the gold standard is personal service. But if that is not possible, we do need back-up alternatives. In practice, rules should allow for some other acceptable method other than personal service and publication.

Ms. Buckley outlined what she hopes to see is that judges review the reasonable service efforts that have been made and only require service by publication as a last resort. Dawn Jensen said that service rules may present a hardship to those in the military and the practicality for responses is a question. Ms. Buckley said that the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act is likely to address.

Justice Pickering said more data is needed but it is paramount that due process is served. Judge Cruz lamented problems with sewer service and that it is critical for avoiding challenges. Justice Pickering said it would be helpful to have more information from other states justifying alternative service methods, and suggested we do further research via a more detailed 50-state survey which could include criteria, improvements, and specifics around service by publication. Any change we would make would need to have a concrete showing of due process. Ms. Buckley emphasized that service by publication should be the last resort only after every other option is exhausted.



Sealed Cases

Work has progressed through the Sealed Cases Committee albeit in smaller groups tackling specific issues. For example, Lauren Pena at Family Court has worked with Michael Wendlberger at Legal Aid Center to delve into both the appellate and legal aid organization/pro bono attorneys issues getting access to sealed cases to at least see the docket. This is necessary to determine if the case can be accepted by legal aid, and if a pro bono attorney may consent to taking it. One of the ideas is allowing access similar to how it is currently allowed in CAP cases. IT issues were discussed.

Ms. Buckley asked a higher-level question, how should the courts operate? Why is super sealing allowed in so many cases? She suggested there may be a separation of powers issue. Justice Pickering said there seems to be a conflict between court rules and laws, and there are cases that are trying to sort this out, for example, Falconi. She does suspect super sealing is inconsistent with statute. John Fortin said a key question is at what point record statuses allow sealing.

Justice Pickering said that she can again be involved in the Sealed Cases Committee now that Falconi is complete.

Peremptory Challenges

UNLV's Justin Iverson had to jump off the call early but Brad referred members to the UNLV research document in the materials showing Nevada has the highest filing fee cost of any state researched at \$450. Also, that several states with fees have fee waivers. Brad also pointed to the peremptory challenge stats from Nevada's legal aid providers showing only a handful of cases over the past few years, and that the AOC indicated they are comfortable with the limited impact on their fund in which fees are held. A sample revision to SCR 48.1 was included in the meeting materials.

Judge Robb shared that she looked up statistics in the Second Judicial District Family Court and there have been a total of 45 cases. Of those only five were pro se, and of the five pro se cases, four were improper. She suggested that she is concerned that a fee waiver may open the door to many more challenges and that it may be difficult to deal with.

Bailey Bortolin shared that her belief is that it's not about the volume, but if the rule exists for some it should exist for all, regardless of ability to pay. Alex Cherup echoed the fairness issue and noted the particularly high cost in Nevada versus other states.

Judge Robb says she understands the impetus but believes there may be unintended consequences and suggested that if we did make a change that perhaps it could be a pilot program to see how it goes. Ms. Buckley said we piloted the unbundling rule, and while that is an option that there should also not be two standards of justice. Ms. Buckley added that a pilot could help assure that the rule is not burdensome.



Justice Pickering shared that she would like to get Justice Stiglich's views on this subject before advancing on any change, adding that it is not urgent and we should take our time and have more discussion before we advance.

Unbundling

While the unbundling rule was believed to be positive and helpful to many, others thought the rule was burdensome and required additional motion practice. The Unbundling Committee met to address the feedback and noted the main issue seemed to be around how to withdraw from a case, including the objection waiting period. The committee will update the pilot rule ADKT and share with the full Commission for an electronic vote so it can be advanced as a new ADKT to replace the current pilot rule which expires November 1, 2024.

Nominations

Doreen Spears Hartwell, chair of the Nominating Committee, referred members to the nominations slate in the meeting materials and shared that the committee recommended voting in the full slate. Mr. Cherup moved to adopt the full slate, it was seconded by Marisa Rodriguez, and it was voted unanimously.

IOLTA

Brad shared that the IOLTA study funded by the Nevada Bar Foundation was completed and was used in determining the rate at the spring IOLTA Rate Review Committee. Further, that an interim meeting this summer would answer further committee questions from the research consultant in order to finalize the committee's discussion and set us up for the fall rate review.

Medical Legal Partnerships (MLPs)

Jonathan Norman shared that there may be Medicaid funds available in the future to act as a consistent funding source for MLPs. However, that is a ways off and MLPs do not seem to be a high priority among all legal aid providers.

Section Pro Bono Challenge

Brad shared that the challenge ended May 31 with 184 lawyers taking 154 cases, participating in 334 Ask-a-Lawyer, Lawyer in the Library sessions or clinics. This represents 1,300 people served and 2,888 pro bono hours. \$4,200 was raised, 100% of which will be distributed to the legal aid providers based on the IOLTA formula. Winning again was the LGBTQ+ section. See all the winners and more [here](#).

Legal Kiosks in Libraries

Susan Myers shared that the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services just approved the funding of more [kiosks](#). This was the repurposed funding from



VARN forgoing the justice bus funding. Four kiosks were added in northern Nevada, including in Minden and Winnemucca. Unique users jumped to 2395. The top five kiosks are East Las Vegas, Elko, Churchill, and Pahrump, followed by “own devices”, as selected from the “+ Select” button.

Informal Family Law Trials

Judge Gordon presented this concept at the March ATJC meeting. At this meeting it was agreed that the Commission would send a letter of support if an ADKT was authorized by a recognized group of family law judges.

Legal Aid Reports

- *Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada* – With time being short, Barbara Buckley referred members to Legal Aid Center’s submitted report.
- *Southern Nevada Senior Law Program* – Diane Fearon gave a shout-out to Doreen Spears Hartwell who was a winner in the Section Pro Bono Challenge from the Labor and Employment Law Section. She shared that Ms. Hartwell has been a valuable SLP volunteer.
- *Northern Nevada Legal Aid* – David Spitzer shared that he is the interim executive director after Lisa Evans departed. He noted that Jennifer Richards from NNLA is also on the Commission. He shared that the new NNLA/NLS partnership with the Reno Justice Court on the new self-help center is already seeing more than 1000 served per month.
- *Second Judicial District Court Self-Help Center and Washoe County Law Library* – Emily Reed reported that their recent Law Day event was a success. It was a three-hour event held on May 1st at the Washoe County Law Library with 12 attorneys and 102 participants.
- *Nevada Legal Services* – Alex Cherup shared that he has appreciated the collaboration between Nevada’s legal aid providers during his time as interim executive director. He shared that the Lawyer in the Schools program has expanded and is going well. Its community-based model housed in school family engagement centers makes a difference. He also shared that the Legal Services Corporation has expanded support for this project.
- *Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans* – Victoria Mendoza was having difficulty with her Zoom microphone so Judge Young jumped in to share that VARN has been great and very helpful in the Ninth Judicial District Court.

Informational Items

Informational items included the following. Details upon request from the Commission:

- Legal Aid Provider Highlights
- Self-Help Center Statistics
- Triannual Provider Call Recap
- Public Awareness

Criteria and Application for ATJC Approved Legal Service Provider Status –

The Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission (ATJC) oversees the process whereby a new legal aid organization may be recognized as a legal aid provider for purposes of receiving IOLTA funding as well as allowing its lawyers to be eligible for Rule 49 certification if the organization and attorney otherwise meet the elements necessary for said certification. This designation does not entitle any entity to any other funding received by a legal aid organization such as legislatively acquired filing fees, recording fees, and other grant funding.

The applicant organization must establish that they are filling a unique gap in services not covered by existing providers, whether geographic or subject matters gaps. Newly approved legal service providers cannot have the effect of reducing funding to existing providers. Any IOLTA fund eligibility must be derived from funds that exceed the previous years' granting and then are subject to a revised distribution formula to be developed and ratified by the Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers.

To be considered as an Access to Justice Commission approved entity, an entity must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant organization must identify and fill a severe and unique gap in legal services not covered by existing providers, whether a geographic or subject matter gap, which can only be addressed by the new applicant.
2. The applicant organization must have a mission of providing civil legal aid services at no cost to low-income Nevadans and primarily service low-income Nevadans.
3. The applicant organization must have a minimum of a three-year track record of providing quality legal services without charge to low-income Nevadans.
4. The applicant organization must be a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Nevada and have adopted bylaws. Its Board of Directors and Executive Director must live in the State of Nevada, and a majority of its lawyers must be barred in the State of Nevada.
5. The applicant organization must abide by the [American Bar Association Standards for Providers of Civil Legal Aid](#).
6. The organization must agree to become a participating and pro rata paying member of the Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers. (Currently five members. Total budget ~\$200,000.)
7. The executive director or high-ranking individual of the organization must participate in meetings and committees of the Access to Justice Commission.
8. The applicant organization must provide a list of legal services certifications, memberships, and affiliations and if approved, must provide an annual report to the Commission and provide any requested information during any period of certification.
9. The applicant must acknowledge its awareness of all of the criteria for becoming an approved legal service provider, including awareness of the Commission's [Statewide Service Delivery Plan \(SSDP\)](#), and an acknowledgment that approval cannot have the effect of reducing funding to existing providers. Any IOLTA fund eligibility must be derived from funds that exceed the

previous year's granting and then are subject to a revised distribution formula to be developed and ratified by the Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers.

[Agree and Continue to Application <LINK>](#)

APPLICATION TO BECOME A NEVADA LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDER APPROVED BY THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Dates & Deadlines - Applications submitted 90 days in advance of one of three Access to Justice Commission meetings each year, typically in March, June, and November, can be included on the agenda for the next meeting. [ATJC Resources – State Bar of Nevada \(nvbar.org\)](http://nvbar.org).

Prior to beginning the application, please review the list of criteria in order to assess potential eligibility. Be sure to review and assemble the documents required in PDF; you will be asked to upload them with your application as a final step prior to submission.

Minimum Requirements:

1. Describe how the applicant organization will fill a severe and unique gap in legal services not provided by existing providers and that can only be addressed by the new applicant.
2. Describe the applicant organization's mission.
3. Attach documentation that the applicant organization is a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Nevada and attach adopted bylaws.
4. Attach documentation that shows your Board of Directors and Executive Director live in the State of Nevada, and a majority of its lawyers are barred in the State of Nevada.
5. Attest that the applicant organization will abide by the [American Bar Association Standards for Providers of Civil Legal Aid](#).

Initial to attest:

6. Attach a list of legal services certifications, memberships, and affiliations held by the applicant organization.
7. If approved, the organization must agree to become a participating and pro rata paying member of the Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers. (Currently five members. Total budget ~\$200,000.)

Initial to attest:

8. If approved, the executive director or high-ranking individual of the organization must participate in meetings and committees of the Access to Justice Commission.

Initial to attest:

9. If approved, the applicant organization must commit to providing an annual report to the Commission and provide any requested information during any period of certification.

Initial to attest:

10. If approved, the applicant organization must certify its awareness of all of the criteria for becoming an approved legal service provider, including awareness of the Commission's [Statewide Service Delivery Plan](#) (SSDP), a requirement that the applicant legal service providers must establish that a unique gap in services exists that is not covered by existing providers, whether a geographic gap or subject matter gap, and cannot have the effect of reducing funding to existing providers. Applicant organization will acknowledge that any IOLTA fund eligibility must be derived from funds that exceed the previous year's granting and then are subject to a revised distribution formula to be developed and ratified by the Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers.

Initial to attest:

Other required organizational information:

11. Organization name, address, phone, email, website.
12. Federal tax ID number.
13. Attach a copy of your organization's Form 990 tax returns for the past three years.
14. Attach your financial statements for the past three fiscal years.
15. Attach your budgets for the past three fiscal years.
16. For each of the past three fiscal years, detail how you were funded.
17. What were your regular, repeat annual revenues by year and source?
18. Detail your grant awards and amounts by year and source.
19. Outline all other funding sources and amounts by year.
20. Do you partner with other legal service organizations? Describe.
21. Do you partner with other nonprofit community organizations in Nevada? Describe.
22. Is your organization fully independent or engaged with or supported by another organization? Explain.

Board & Staff Information:

- Executive director's name and resume.
- How long has the executive director or equivalent served? (Years and months.)
- Attach a list of your organization's Board of Directors, including name, phone number and email address.
- Lawyer lists:
 - Include a list of staff lawyers including state(s) and bar number(s).
 - Include a list of contract lawyers including state(s) and bar number(s).
 - Include a resume for each lawyer and discipline report(s) from barred state(s).
 - Include a criminal, employment, and education background check for the executive director and each lawyer.
- Are all attorneys licensed to practice law in Nevada?
 - Yes, no.
- How long has the longest serving lawyer served? (Years and months.)
- How many full time equivalent (FTE) staff do you have?
- How many FTE lawyers are on staff?

- How many FTE paralegals are on staff?
- Do contract lawyers serve your organization?
 - If yes,
 - Three-year average number of contract lawyer(s) per year.
 - Three-year average number of contract lawyer hours per year.
- Do any staff or contract lawyers have pending discipline or determinations?
 - If yes, explain.
- Does your organization offer internships for law students?
 - Yes, no.
- How many pro bono lawyers volunteered with your organization over each of the last three years?
- How many pro bono hours were engaged through your organization over each of the last three years?

Legal Service Information:

- Outline all services provided and all subject matter areas offered for service.
- Do you offer civil legal services?
 - Yes, no.
- Do you offer criminal legal services?
 - Yes, no. If yes, explain.
- Do you offer self-help resources?
 - Yes, no.
- Do you screen for income?
 - Yes, no. If yes, detail.
- Is there ever any fee, expense, or charge for your services?
 - Yes, no. If yes, provide a statement of cost for services.
- Do you accept any portion of court awarded fees?
 - Yes, no. If yes, explain.
- Do you provide legal training, assistance, or advocacy support to qualified legal services projects?
 - Yes, no. If yes, explain.
- Share any restrictions on legal services offered, including age, gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, etc.
- Share your geographical service area.
 - In total.
 - In Nevada.
- Do you serve United States citizens only?
 - Yes, no. If no, explain.
- Do you serve Nevada residents only?
 - Yes, no. If no, explain.
- Total number of people served in Nevada in the last three years. (Actual or estimate?)
 - Number of cases handled for Nevadans in each of the last three years.
 - Number of other legal services minus cases handled for Nevadans in each of the last three years.
 - Number of Nevadans served through legal help events in each of the last three years.

- Number of website unique user sessions in each of the last three years.
- What is the average cost per person served in Nevada over each of the last three years?
- Does your organization:
 - Have ongoing training for uniformly high quality and effective legal services?
 - Yes, no. If yes, describe.
 - Conduct education and development activities for all staff?
 - Yes, no. If yes, describe.
 - Have written hiring practices?
 - Yes, no. If yes, attach.
- Is your organization involved in Nevada legislative matters?
 - Yes, no. If yes, explain.
- Include a description of why you are applying and how you expect to integrate with [currently approved Nevada legal service providers](#).

Supplemental Information:

- Furnish five professional letters of reference from five organizations.
- Provide a business and funding plan for ongoing Nevada operations. The plan must include how your organization fills a unique legal service need in Nevada, how you will avoid overlap while working in concert with existing providers,
- Include an attorney recruitment plan that avoids hiring from other Nevada legal aid providers.

Self Help Rollout –

The Goals:

- By January 24, 2025
 - Issue media release extolling the self-help need, resources, and benefits, including actionable ability to use online and attend Ask-a-Lawyer events
 - Continue adding materials to the Family Law Self Help Center web landing pages
 - Continue adding materials to the NSC web landing pages
 - Update library kiosks to include link to interviews
- By May 21, 2025 conduct:
 - A Zoom session to (district court?) clerks to engage them in self-help resources
 - 5 lawyer CLEs preceding Ask-a-Lawyer events
 - 5 Ask-a-Lawyer events at/with (district?) court staff combining advice and self-help
 - One for each legal aid provider, 2 in urban and 3 in rural areas.
- By December 31, 2025 achieve:
 - 5000 completed guided interviews
 - 50,000 explainer video views
 - 50,000 chatbot sessions from 35,000 active users
 - Install x e-filing kiosks at x (district?) courts
- What else does success look like?

Target Audiences:

This plan is designed to announce the many new Nevada legal self-help resources to the public, (district court?) clerks, Nevada’s legal service providers, the bar and the Judiciary.

Strategy & Tactics:

- Media release
 - The Ferraro Group to send to their media list.
 - AOC to send to their lists, covered by a Zoom information session invite to the court clerks list
 - To include a one-pager cheat sheet to clerks on “why” – “Now there can be a self-help center in every Nevada court!” The NSC strategic plan calls for x. The [CCJ/COSCA Guiding Principles for Post-Pandemic Court Technology](#). NSC Rule xxx on accepting filings – new resources make it easy. No need to answer legal questions. Include quotes from clerk leaders/champions. Challenge to embrace. Future. Fulfill our mission of courts truly being accessible to all.
 - Lead messaging – guided interviews, benefits – no legal knowledge needed, no need to fill out a confusing form, just answer basic questions related to your matter in plain English
 - General message – when the average person confronts a legal issue and cannot afford an attorney (80%?) in family court, most navigate the complex legal system on their own, they’re starving for information. Nevada has new resources that turn a

confusing form filled with legalese into a simple guided interview that translates answers into the format needed to file at court.

Responsibilities and Assignments:

- Media release - To be developed by Katherine Stocks, Stephanie McDonald, and Brad Lewis, with input from The Ferraro Group.
- Updating FLSHC website – Stephanie McDonald
- Updating NSC website – Katherine Stocks
- Updating library kiosk website – Susan Myers
- Zoom for court clerks/related information – Katherine Stocks
- Lawyer CLE and Ask-A-Lawyers –
 - Brad Lewis via legal service providers
 - Katherine stocks to coordinate on potential to be at/with court personnel
- Goals finalization and targets – Katherine Stocks

Timeline:

- By November 22 – draft plan including goals finalized
- By December 18 – draft CLE/Ask-a-Lawyers plan finalized
- By January 24 – media release issued
- February 17 – May 21 – CLEs/Ask-a-Lawyers conducted/completed

Considerations:

- Who all sponsors? NSC, AOC, Access to Justice Commission, all legal aid providers, bar, District Court Judges, etc.
- Tie-in with library kiosks?
- Tie-in with Young Lawyers Section?
- Tie-in with Section Pro Bono Challenge?

Potential internal (non-media) marketing idea:



PROGRESS REPORT #7



INTERACTIVE STATEWIDE SELF-HELP CENTER

October 14, 2024



CiviLaw.Tech

P.O. BOX 7184, KANSAS CITY, MO 64113
816.217.1782 | INFO@CIVILAW.TECH | CIVILAW.TECH



About this report

This seventh update provides a comprehensive overview of the work completed on Nevada's Interactive Statewide Self-Help Center. We are pleased to report that the majority of the deliverables have been completed and are now live, and accessible to the public. Below is a recap of each deliverable with relevant details and links.

Index

- [Work completed](#)
- [Work under a final review](#)
- [Next Steps](#)
- [Support and maintenance](#)



Work Completed

The project deliverables are now publicly accessible through the state's Self-Help website.

- AI-Powered Chatbot
- Process Timelines
- Explainer Videos
- Eligibility Reviews
- Guided Interviews
- Analytics Dashboard
- E-Filing



How can we help you today?

Disclaimer

This chatbot is powered by artificial intelligence. It provides basic, general information from the Nevada Self-Help Center. While we strive for accuracy, responses may not be comprehensive or current, and are not a substitute for legal advice. Many legal matters involve complex and valuable rights which cannot adequately be protected without the assistance of an attorney. For legal assistance, please visit "[Lawyers & Legal Help](#)."

Continue

Pregunta en tu propio idioma - Magtanong sa iyong sariling wika - 用您自己的语言提问。 - اسأل سؤالك بلغتك الخاصة

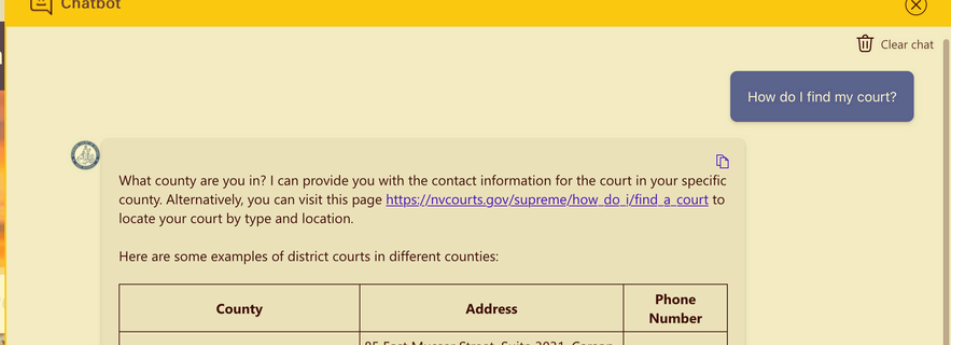
Nevada's Self-Help Chatbot

This chatbot is built on Microsoft Azure's OpenAI Service using the GPT-4o model, which is faster and uses fewer server resources than its predecessor. Since its public launch on June 1, 2024, we have recorded over 4,200 sessions from more than 3,000 active users, with an average session lasting 1 minute and 49 seconds.

We continuously update the knowledge base to reflect changes in court resources and self-help tools, while collaborating with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and court staff to improve the chatbot's reliability and performance. Our team will also monitor advancements in OpenAI models to assess future updates.

URL

selfhelpguides.nvcourts.gov



Chatbot Analytics: June 1 to October 14, 2024

Sessions	Users	Avg. Session Duration
4,200	3,000	1m 49s

Top Cities	Total Count
Las Vegas	619
Los Angeles	460
San Jose	326
Reno	143
Fallon	46
Sparks	35
Carson City	34
Elko	32
Sacramento	32
Pahrump	31

Desktop	Mobile	Tablet
57.8%	41.9%	0.3%

URL
selfhelpguides.nvcourts.gov

PROCESS TIMELINE

JOINT PETITION FOR DIVORCE

01 Complete the required forms

To file a Joint Petition for Divorce, all the required documents must be completed. Otherwise, your filing may be rejected by the court. Both spouses will have to notarize the joint petition prior to filing.



02 File the petition with the Court Clerk

After you fill out the required forms, you will need to file them with the district court in your county.

Process Timelines

These individual PDF sheets, featuring minimalistic design and visual elements based on a legal icon library, explain key steps in certain areas of the law. Users can download them as part of the final court packet generated through the guided interview

The following process timelines are now available to the public.

PROCESS TIMELINE ADULT NAME CHANGE

- 01 Complete the required forms**

To file a Petition for Adult Name Change, all the required documents must be completed. Otherwise, your filing may be rejected by the court. If you have been convicted of a felony, you must get fingerprinted and turn in your fingerprints with your forms.
- 02 File your forms with the Court**

After you fill out the required forms, you will need to file them with the appropriate court. This type of petition is filed at the District Court. The court will charge a filing fee. Check with your court to find out the fee, as the fee is different in every county. You may be eligible for a fee waiver.
- 03 Publish the Notice of Petition in a newspaper**

Skip this step if you are changing your name for gender identity purposes. The Notice of Petition for Change of Name must be published one time in a county newspaper. You are responsible for arranging for publication. If you feel that your personal safety would be at risk by doing so, you can ask the judge to waive the publication requirement and seal your case. Safety Waivers are only granted in rare circumstances.
- 04 File the Affidavit of Publication with the Court Clerk**

After publication is complete, the newspaper will prepare an "Affidavit of Publication." This document must be filed with the court as proof that publication was completed. Usually, the newspaper sends this document directly to the court for filing.
- 05 Turn in the order to the Judge**

Wait 10 days after date the notice was published before you turn in a final name change order to your judge to review. The judge will review the order and sign it if approved.
- 06 Get certified copies of the final order**

Your name will not change with any agency until you provide them with a certified copy of the final name change order. You can order certified copies for a small fee. Change your name first with Social Security, then with the DMV. Once those are complete, you should be able to change your name with any other entity you wish.
- 07 Request a new Birth Certificate**

If your order includes a request for a new birth certificate with your new name, you will need to contact the vital records department where you were born to find out their requirements. If you were born in Nevada, please see the Nevada Office of Vital Statistics to find out how to get your birth certificate changed.

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PROCESS TIMELINE ALTERNATIVE SERVICE

- 01 Complete the required forms**

To request to serve by alternate means, all the required documents must be completed. Otherwise, your filing may be rejected by the court. The court will want to see that there has been an attempt to find the defendant's location before allowing alternate service.
- 02 File your forms with the Court**

After you fill out your forms, you will need to file them with the same court where the complaint was filed. There is no fee to file these.
- 03 Wait for the Judge to review your request**

The judge will review your forms, and if the judge believes the Defendant cannot be found to be served in person but could be served by another method, the judge will sign your Order. This can take 1-3 weeks.
- 04 Serve the Complaint and Summons by all of the methods included in the order**

The Order for Alternate Service will list all of the methods the judge wants you to use to send the Complaint and Summons to the Defendant. Send the documents by all of the methods ordered.
- 05 File the Proof of Alternative Service with the Court**

Fill out the "Proof of Service" to tell the judge the different ways you sent the papers and the dates you sent them. File this at court.
- 06 Wait for the Other Party to Respond**

The other party has 21 days from the last service date to file a response with the court. If they do not file a response in that time period, you can request a default decree be entered.

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01 Complete the required forms

To file a Joint Petition for Divorce, all the required documents must be completed. Otherwise, your filing may be rejected by the court. Both spouses will have to notarize the joint petition prior to filing.

02 File the petition with the Court Clerk

Process Timelines Cont.

PROCESS TIMELINE ANSWER TO COMPLAINT

- 01 Read the Complaint**
Read the complaint to figure out what the other parent is asking for. You may agree with some, all, or none of the complaint.
- 02 Complete the required forms**
You only have 21 calendar days after being served to file your Answer to the complaint. You may be able to request an extension if you cannot file your answer within 21 days.
- 03 File your Answer with the Court**
After you fill out your answer, file it with the same district court where the complaint was filed.
- 04 Pay the filing fees to the Court**
The court filing fees are different in every county. Find out from your local court what the filing fee will be. You may be eligible for a fee waiver.
- 05 Serve the Plaintiff with your Answer**
After you file, send a copy of your Answer (and anything else you filed) to the Plaintiff or their attorney if they have one. This is typically done by sending it through regular mail.
- 06 File the Certificate of Mailing with the Court**
After you serve the Plaintiff with your Answer, you have to fill out a Certificate of Mailing and file it with the court to show that your spouse was properly served.
- 07 File a Financial Disclosure Form**
This is due within 30 days after you file your answer. File it with the court and send a copy to the Plaintiff.
- 08 Wait for a court date**
The judge will set a court date within 90 days. This will be an initial hearing for the judge to get your case moving forward. It may take a few hearings until your divorce is finalized.

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PROCESS TIMELINE CHILD NAME CHANGE

- 01 Complete the required forms**
To file a Petition to Change Minor Child's Name, all the required documents must be completed. Otherwise, your filing may be rejected by the court. Usually, both parents must sign and notarize the Petition unless a parent is deceased or their rights were terminated. If a parent will not sign the Petition, they must be served with copies of the papers in step 3.
A child age 14 or older must consent to their own name change.
- 02 File your forms with the Court**
After you fill out the required forms, you will need to file them with the appropriate court. This type of petition is filed at the District Court. The court will charge a filing fee. Check with your court to find out the fee, as the fee is different in every county. You may be eligible for a fee waiver.
- 03 Serve the Other Parent (if needed)**
Any living parent who still has parental rights to the child but did not sign the Petition should be personally served with a copy of the Petition and the Notice of Petition.
If you have no contact with the other parent and do not know where to find him or her, you can file a request for permission to post a notice in a newspaper for three weeks instead of having the other parent served in person. It will be up to the judge whether to allow you to publish the notice instead of having it served.
- 04 File the Proof of Service with the Court Clerk (if needed)**
Whoever serves the other parent must fill out a Proof of Service form that says when, where, and how the other parent was served. Make sure this form is completed and filed at the court.

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PROCESS TIMELINE ANSWER TO COMPLAINT FOR CUSTODY/PATERNITY

- 01 Read the Complaint for Custody/Paternity**
Read the complaint to figure out what the other parent is asking for. You may agree with some, all, or none of the complaint.
- 02 Complete the required forms**
You only have 21 calendar days after being served to file your Answer to the complaint. You may be able to request an extension if you cannot file your answer within 21 days.
- 03 File your Answer with the Court**
After you fill out your answer, file it with the same district court where the complaint was filed.
- 04 Pay the filing fees to the Court**
The court filing fees are different in every county. Find out from the court what the filing fee will be. You may be eligible for a fee waiver.
- 05 Serve the Plaintiff with your Answer**
After you file, send a copy of your Answer (and anything else you filed) to the Plaintiff or their attorney if they have one. This is typically done by sending it through regular mail.
- 06 File the Certificate of Mailing with the Court**
After you serve the Plaintiff with your Answer, you have to fill out a Certificate of Service and file it with the court to show that the Plaintiff was properly served.
- 07 File a Financial Disclosure Form**
This is due within 30 days of filing your answer. File it with the court and send a copy to the Plaintiff.
- 08 Wait for a court date**
The judge will set a court date within 90 days. This will be an initial hearing to get your case moving forward. It may take a few hearings until your case is finalized.

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PROCESS TIMELINE CHILD NAME CHANGE

- 01 Complete the required forms**
To file a Petition to Change Minor Child's Name, all the required documents must be completed. Otherwise, your filing may be rejected by the court. Usually, both parents must sign and notarize the Petition unless a parent is deceased or their rights were terminated.
A child age 14 or older must consent to their own name change.
- 02 File your forms with the Court**
After you fill out the required forms, you will need to file them with the appropriate court. This type of petition is filed at the District Court. The court will charge a filing fee. Check with your court to find out the fee, as the fee is different in every county. You may be eligible for a fee waiver.
- 03 Judge reviews your application**
The judge will review the papers and sign the order if the name change is approved. The judge may want you to set a short hearing if the judge has questions before approving the name change.
- 04 Get certified copies of the final order**
The child's name will not change with any agency until you provide them with a certified copy of the final name change order. You can order certified copies for a small fee. Change the child's name first with Social Security, then with the DMV (if the child has any DMV identification). Once those are complete, you should be able to change the child's name with any other entity you wish.
- 05 Request a new Birth Certificate**
If the order includes a request for a new birth certificate with the child's new name, you will need to contact the vital records department where the child was born to find out their requirements. If the child was born in Nevada, please see the Nevada Office of Vital Statistics to find out how to get the birth certificate changed.

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PROCESS TIMELINE COMPLAINT FOR CUSTODY

- 01 Complete the required forms**
You must complete a Complaint, Summons, and a cover sheet to begin your case.
- 02 File your forms with the Court**
After you fill out the required forms, file them with the district court in your county.
- 03 Pay the filing fees to the Court**
The court filing fees are different in every county. Find out from your local court what the filing fee will be. You may be eligible for a fee waiver.
- 04 Serve the Defendant**
A neutral person age 18 or older must hand-deliver a copy of the complaint and summons to the other parent (the "Defendant") within 120 days after you file the complaint. If Defendant is not served within 120 days, your case will be dismissed and you will have to start all over. If you cannot locate Defendant to have them served, you can file additional papers asking the judge for permission to serve them another way.
- 05 File the Proof of Service to the Court**
Whoever served Defendant must fill out an Affidavit of Service with the details of when and where Defendant was served. File the Affidavit with the court.
- 06 Wait to see what Defendant does**
Defendant has 21 days after being served to file an answer. If Defendant does not file an answer, you will have more papers to file out to finish the case. If Defendant does file an answer, the court will set a hearing and notify you of the date.

Looking For Help with Child Support?
If you only need assistance with child support (not custody), you may contact the Nevada Child Support Office. They can determine/collect child support, plus establish paternity if needed.
(800) 992-0900 dws.nv.gov

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PROCESS TIMELINE ANSWER TO COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE

- 01 Read the Complaint for Divorce**
Read the Complaint for Divorce to figure out what your spouse is asking for out of the divorce. You may agree with some, all, or none of the complaint.
- 02 Complete the required forms**
You only have 21 calendar days after being served to file your Answer to the complaint. You may be able to request an extension if you cannot file your answer within 21 days.
- 03 File your Answer with the Court**
After you fill out your answer, you will need to file it with the same district court where the complaint was filed.
- 04 Pay the filing fees to the Court**
The court filing fees are different in every county. Find out from your local court what the filing fee will be. You may be eligible for a fee waiver.
- 05 Serve the Plaintiff with your Answer**
A copy of your answer (and anything else you filed) must be sent to your spouse (the "Plaintiff"). The Court does not serve the papers for you. You should make sure your spouse gets served after you file these papers.
- 06 File the Certificate of Mailing with the Court**
After you serve the Plaintiff with your Answer, you have to fill out a Certificate of Mailing and file it with the court to show that your spouse was properly served.
- 07 File a Financial Disclosure Form**
This is due within 30 days after you file your answer. File it with the court and send a copy to the Plaintiff.
- 08 Wait for a court date**
The judge will set a court date within 90 days. This will be an initial hearing for the judge to get your case moving forward. It may take a few hearings until your divorce is finalized.

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03 Pay the filing fees to the Court

The court filing fees are different in every county. Find out from your local court what the filing fee will be. You may be eligible for a fee waiver.

04 Submit the Decree to the judge

Process Timelines Cont.

PROCESS TIMELINE JOINT PETITION FOR DIVORCE

- 01 Complete the required forms**
To file a Joint Petition for Divorce, all the required documents must be completed. Otherwise, your filing may be rejected by the court. Both spouses will have to notarize the joint petition prior to filing.
- 02 Have someone fill out the Affidavit of Resident Witness**
The spouse you named as the Nevada resident will need someone else (a friend, coworker, roommate, etc.) to fill out this form to verify their residency.
- 03 File your forms with the Court**
After you fill out the required forms, you will need to file them with the district court in your county.
- 04 Pay the filing fees to the Court**
The court filing fees are different in every county. Find out from your local court what the filing fee will be. You may be eligible for a fee waiver.
- 05 Submit the Decree to the Judge**
The judge will review your petition, and if everything is completed properly and the judge approves of your agreement, the judge will sign your Decree of Divorce.
- 06 File the Decree with the Court Clerk**
If the Decree is not filed directly by the Judge, you will need to file it yourself with the Court Clerk.
- 07 Serve the signed Decree to the other spouse**
Once the Decree is signed by the Judge, you need to mail it to the other spouse.
- 08 File Certificate of Mailing with the Court Clerk**
Fill out a Certificate of Mailing and file it with the court to prove that both parties have a copy.

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PROCESS TIMELINE FINAL DECREE OF DIVORCE

- 01 Obtain a Default (if needed)**
If Defendant does not file an answer within 21 days of being served, Plaintiff can request a default to finalize the case without Defendant. Complete the steps for getting a default before moving forward.
- 02 Complete the required forms**
Fill out the required forms to finalize the divorce. A friend, family member, or co-worker must fill out the Affidavit of Resident Witness verifying that one spouse is a Nevada resident. Both spouses must sign the Decree if you are in agreement.
- 03 File the forms with the Court**
File the completed forms with the same district court where the divorce was filed.
- 04 Wait for the Judge to review your forms**
The judge will review your case and sign the Decree if the judge approves of the divorce terms. If the judge has some questions, they may want you to set a hearing.
- 05 File the signed Decree with the Court**
Make sure the signed Decree is filed at the clerk's office if the judge did not file it for you. The filed Decree is your proof of the divorce.
- 06 File & Serve a Notice of Entry of Order**
This step notifies the other person of the divorce and starts their timeline to appeal. Fill out the Notice of Entry of Order form, attach a copy of the Decree, and file it with the Court. Mail a copy of the Notice with the Decree attached to the other spouse.

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PROCESS TIMELINE PROTECTION ORDERS

- 01 Complete the required forms**
To file a Protection Order Application, all the required documents must be completed. Otherwise, your filing may be rejected by the court.
- 02 File your forms with the Court**
After you fill out the required forms, you will need to file them with the appropriate court. Most applications are filed at your local Justice Court, but some might need to be filed in District Court. Check with your local court if you are not sure where to file this. There is no fee to file this.
- 03 Judge reviews your application**
After you fill out the required forms, a Temporary Protection Order may be granted without notice to the Adverse Party or a hearing. However, the court can require a hearing before deciding whether to grant a Temporary Protection Order.
- 04 Get copies of your Protection Order**
If there are addresses the other person must stay away from (work, schools, etc.), get enough copies of the TPO so each location can keep one. Give a copy to each location so they know the adverse party is to stay away. **Keep a copy of the TPO with you at all times.**
- 05 The Adverse Party will be Served**
If the protection order is granted, the court will arrange for the Sheriff to serve the other person if he/she lives in Clark County. **Your Temporary Protection Order is not enforceable until served on Adverse Party.**
- 06 Prepare for the extension hearing**
If you requested an extended order, prepare for the hearing. Make plans to participate. If you do not participate, the judge cannot extend your order and your Temporary Protection Order will expire. You can ask the Court to appear by phone.

Looking For Help?

You can contact an advocacy organization to get connected to free support and resources.
www.ncdesv.org/find-help

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PROCESS TIMELINE SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

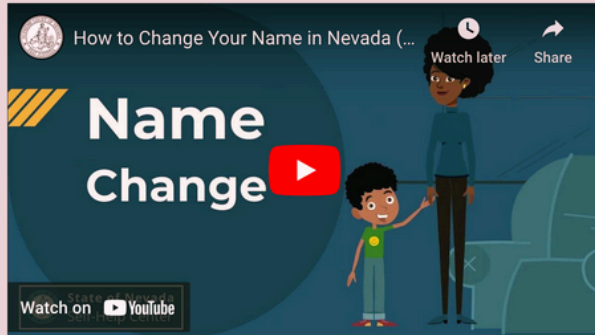
- 01 Complete the required forms**
To request to serve by publication, all the required documents must be completed. Otherwise, your filing may be rejected by the court. The court will want to see that there has been an attempt to locate the defendant before allowing alternate service.
- 02 File your forms with the Court**
After you fill out your forms, you will need to file them with the same court where the complaint was filed. **There is no fee to file these.**
- 03 Wait for the Judge to review your request**
The judge will review your request, and if the judge believes Defendant cannot be located to be served, the judge will sign your Order. This can take 1-3 weeks.
- 04 Mail the Complaint and Summons to Defendant's last known address (if ordered)**
Check the Order for Service by Publication to see if the judge is requiring you to mail copies of the Complaint and Summons to the Defendant's last-known address. If ordered, send a copy of the documents by regular mail.
Fill out a Certificate of Mailing that says when and where you mailed the documents. File this at the court.
- 05 Publish the Summons**
Arrange to have the Summons published once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in the newspaper listed in the order. The newspaper will usually file an Affidavit of Publication once complete. If they do not, be sure to file it yourself.
- 06 Wait for the Defendant to Respond**
The Defendant has 21 days from the last publication date (or date you mailed the forms, whichever date is later) to file a response with the court. If they do not file a response in that time period, you can request a default decree be entered.

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Name Changes

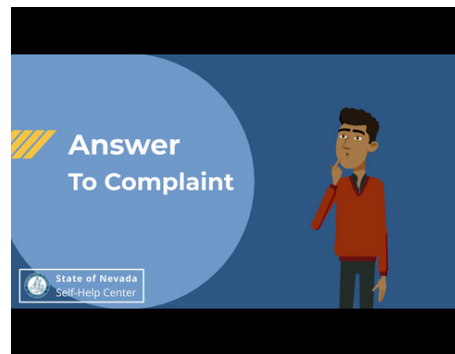


- Getting Started
- Divorce
- Custody Paternity & Child Support
- Separate Maintenance
- Annulment
- Going to Court
- Guardianship
- Adoption & Termination of Parental Rights
- Name Changes**
- Overview of Name Changes

Explainer Videos

We have completed all the explainer videos, which are now available to the public. The scripts were developed in parallel with the design and development process to ensure consistency in format and tone across subjects. Each video was produced using a custom-designed video theme to provide clear, user-friendly instructions.

The following videos are now available to the public from the self-help portal.

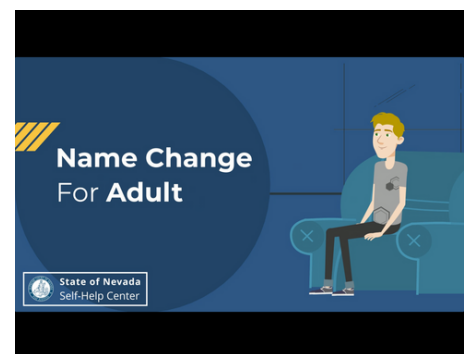
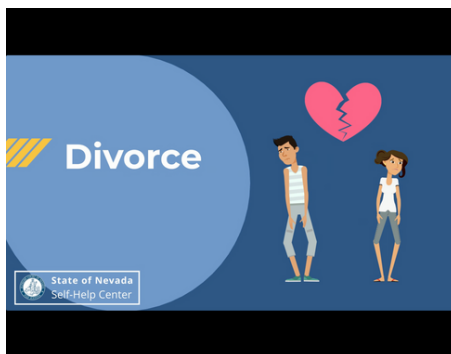


URL
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- Separate Maintenance
- Annulment
- Going to Court
- Guardianship
- Adoption & Termination of Parental Rights

Explainer Videos Cont.





- Separate Maintenance
- Annulment
- Going to Court
- Guardianship
- Adoption & Termination
- Parental Rights

Explainer Videos Cont.





- Separate Maintenance
- Annulment
- Going to Court
- Guardianship
- Adoption & Termination
- Parental Rights

Explainer Videos Analytics: June 1, 2023 to October 14, 2024

Title	Total Views
How to File a Joint Petition for Divorce in Nevada	1200
How to Change Your Name (adult) in Nevada: A Step-by-Step Guide	917
How to File for Divorce When Your Spouse Won't Sign the Papers	557
What to Do When You Receive a Complaint: A Guide to Filing an Answer in Nevada	235
How to Change Your Name in Nevada - Overview	252
How to File for Child Custody and Support in Nevada	213
Understanding Child Custody and Support Laws in Nevada	204
Understanding Divorce in Nevada: What You Need to Know	292
How to Serve Legal Papers in a Lawsuit in Nevada: A Step-by-Step	280
How to Get a Final Decree of Divorce in Nevada	164
Understanding Protection Orders: What You Need to Know	143
Serving a Defendant by Alternate Means - What You Need to Know	72
Understanding Protection Orders Against Stalking, Harassment, and Sexual Assault	73
How to File for a Protection Order Against Domestic Violence in Nevada	76
How to Change a Child's Name in Nevada: A Step-by-Step Guide	94
How to File for a Protection Order for a Child in Nevada	32
How to Serve a Missing Defendant by Publication in Nevada	20

Learn About the Law

+ **DIY Forms**

+ **Divorce**

+ **Guardianship**

+ **Legal Separation**

Published Interviews

For each type of petition, we created both an eligibility review and a guided interview. The eligibility review helps litigants determine the appropriate guided interview based on their specific circumstances. However, litigants can also choose to bypass the eligibility review and go directly to the guided interviews. At the end of each guided interview, litigants can download the full court packet.

The following interviews are now available to the public from the self-help portal.

Protection Orders:

- [Which Protection Order Do I Qualify For? \(Eligibility Questionnaire\)](#)
- [Protection Order Against Domestic Violence DIY](#)
- [Protection Order Against Stalking, Harassment, Sexual Assault, or Harm to Minor DIY](#)

Divorce:

- [Which Divorce Do I Qualify For? \(Eligibility Questionnaire\)](#)
- [Joint Petition for Divorce DIY](#)
- [Complaint for Divorce DIY](#)
- [What Are My Options for Responding to a Divorce? \(Eligibility Assessment\)](#)
- [Divorce Answer and Counterclaim DIY](#)

URL

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Learn About the Law

[+ DIY Forms](#)[+ Divorce](#)[+ Guardianship](#)[+ Legal Separation](#)

Published Interviews Cont.

Custody/Paternity:

- [Do I Qualify to file for Child Custody/Paternity? \(Eligibility Questionnaire\)](#)
- [Complaint for Custody/Paternity DIY](#)

Name Changes:

- [Do I Qualify For a Name Change? \(Eligibility Questionnaire\)](#)
- [Adult Name Change DIY](#)
- [Child Name Change DIY](#)

Miscellaneous:

- [Answer to Complaint DIY](#)
- [Child Support Calculator DIY](#)
- [Fee Waiver Application DIY](#)
- [Financial Disclosure Form DIY](#)
- [Permission to Serve by Alternate Means or Publication DIY](#)

URL

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Learn About the Law

+ **DIY Forms**+ **Divorce**+ **Guardianship**+ **Legal Separation**

Guided Interviews Analytics April 8 to October 24, 2024

Total	Eligibility	Generated Packets
312	186	126

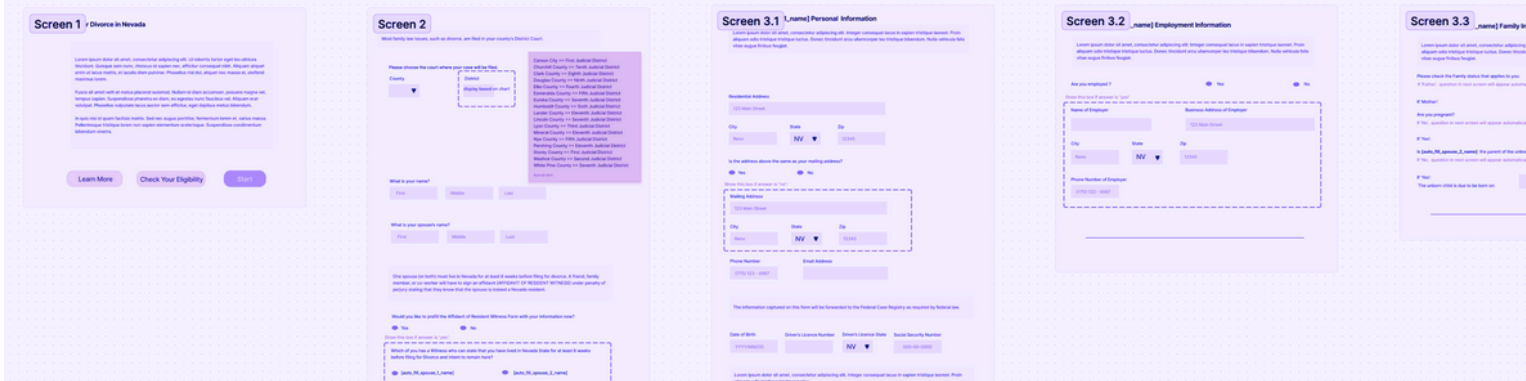
Top Counties	Total Count
Clark County	44
Washoe County	36
Lyon County	15
Douglas County	9
Carson City	8
Churchill County	6
Elko County	2
Nye County	2
Esmeralda County	1
Mineral County	1
White Pine County	1

Learn About the Law

+ **DIY Forms**+ **Divorce**+ **Guardianship**+ **Legal Separation**

Guided Interviews Analytics April 8 to October 24, 2024 Cont.

Interview Name	Total Count
Protection Order Eligibility	109
Name Change Eligibility	59
Fee Waiver	33
Protection Order Domestic Violence	29
Child Calculator	27
Divorce Filing Eligibility	16
Protection Order Non-Dopmestic Violence	10
Answer to a Complaint	9
Financial Disclosure	9
Adult Name Change	8
Child Custody/Paternity Complaint Eligibility	2
Service	1



Final Testing of the Guided Interviews

We have successfully completed the development and conducted internal testing of the subsequent interviews. We are now in collaboration with the LACSN team to address any outstanding bugs and finalize adjustments prior to their transition to the production server.

The following is the list of final interviews we are working on:

1. Child Custody or Paternity Answer and Counterclaim (95% completed)
2. Final Decree (55% completed)



- Overview
- Submissions
- Settings
- Users
- Courts
- Interviews
- Activity Log

All Sessions
12,023

Eligibilities
1,947

Forms
10,073

All completed sessions
312

Completed eligibilities
186

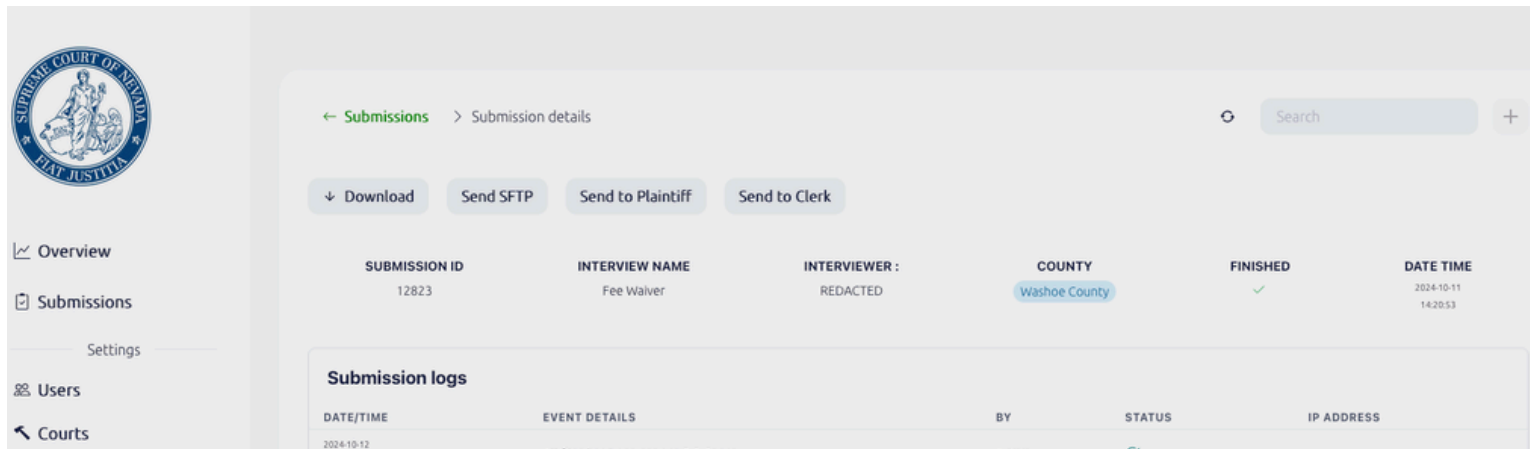
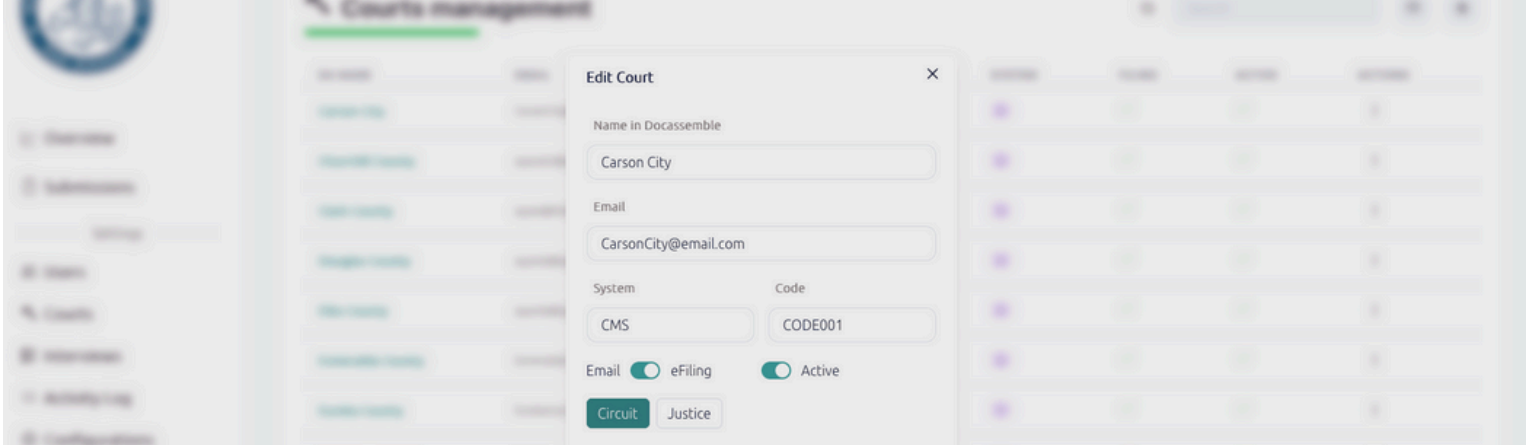
Completed forms
126

Completion of Core Functions in Dashboard

Our team has successfully developed the core functions for the dashboard, which will serve as a secure proxy server between the guided interviews and the e-filing system. The following features are currently available:

- Log views and submission analytics for both eligibility and form generators
- Capture submission data from guided interviews
- Download petitions
- Send petitions to a remote server using SFTP
- Email petitions to the court clerk
- Email confirmation to the user
- Log all interactions in the system

This dashboard was specifically created to provide secure access to court clerks and authorized personnel.



ELECTRONIC FILING

Currently, the guided interviews are configured to allow users to generate and download court-ready documents that can be filed in person.

Meanwhile, we have completed the development and backend work for a system that will enable the automatic filing of petitions with the statewide e-filing system.

This phased approach allows us to launch the guided interviews promptly while finalizing the new e-filing process.

ON



Next Steps

The following are our suggested next steps for the project.



Efiling Information

While the dashboard used to connect the submissions to the court electronic filing has been developed, we are waiting for the remaining court information to finish configuring the efilings process.

Support and Maintenance

We are excited to enter the support and maintenance phase, where we will continue to enhance and build upon the resources developed. This phase includes support for process timelines, explainer videos, guided interviews, and electronic filing integration. Our services will encompass content updates, system monitoring, consultation and training, access to analytics, regular server maintenance, and prompt support for court staff.

We are committed to bridging the justice gap with a creative, out-of-the-box approach by leveraging technology, innovation, and outstanding support.

CiviLaw.Tech

info@civilaw.tech

ADKT 597

EXHIBIT A

ADOPTION OF DISTRICT COURT RULE 26

Rule 26. Limited scope representation.

1. "Limited scope representation" may be commenced either by:

(a) An attorney entering into a private agreement with a person involved in a court proceeding that creates an attorney-client relationship where the attorney and the person seeking legal services have agreed that the scope of legal services will be limited to specific tasks that the attorney will perform for the person. The creation of a limited scope agreement shall be in writing. ~~and shall not bind the court or limit the court's ability to deny a request to withdraw as attorney except as provided by this rule; or~~

~~(b) An attorney seeking leave of court to engage in limited scope representation in the permitted cases described in subsection 2 may do so as long as the appearance meets all of the requirements of this rule.~~ The attorney engaging in limited scope representation shall clearly and with particularity describe the specific tasks that the attorney will perform on the record. If consent is given orally on the record in court, the limited scope attorney shall file the Notice of Limited Scope Representation no later than 48 hours after the hearing.

2. Limited scope representation shall be permitted in the following areas: divorce, annulments, dissolution of domestic partnerships, separate maintenance, child custody, paternity, child support, minor name change petitions, guardianships pursuant to NRS Chapter 159 or NRS Chapter 159A, and protection orders issued pursuant to NRS Chapter 33.

3. An attorney who contracts with a person involved in a court proceeding to limit the scope of representation shall:

(a) File a Notice of Limited Scope Representation, in a form substantially similar to Form 1 in the Appendix of Forms, signed by both the attorney and the limited scope party, with the court stating:

(1) The scope of the limited representation with particularity, including a list of the specific services the attorney will perform;

(2) That any other party or their attorney is authorized and required to serve the limited scope party directly with any pleadings or papers filed with the court; and

(3) That the opposing party or their attorney may communicate directly with the limited scope party for matters not stated in the scope of representation to the extent not otherwise prohibited.

(b) Notify the court of that limitation at the beginning of each hearing in which the attorney appears and identify pleadings filed on behalf of the limited scope party in the signature block that the attorney is acting in a limited scope representation.

4. Service of all papers after the filing of a notice of limited scope appearance as provided in this rule must be made upon both the attorney making such limited scope appearance and the party on whose behalf the appearance is made. The limited scope party must be added to any electronic filing system utilized by the court and included in any electronic service list for service of papers or pleadings. The attorney must take all necessary steps to notify the court or register the party for electronic service to effectuate the requirements of this provision.

5. The court may make any further additions or revisions to the limited scope representation as necessary to conclude or resolve any matter or hearing subject to the limited scope representation.

6. An attorney who contracts with a party to limit the scope of representation, or is given leave by the court to act in a limited capacity, shall be permitted to withdraw ~~only upon order of the court~~ by complying with the Notice of Completion of Services in Limited Scope Representation in a form substantially similar to Form 2 in the Appendix of Forms.

(a) The ~~attorney shall file a~~ Notice of Completion of Services in Limited Scope ~~Representation, in a form substantially similar to Form 2 in the Appendix of Forms, containing~~ Representation containing a statement that:

(1) All services required by the agreement and the court are complete, including any post-hearing settlement discussions and preparation or review of the hearing order;

(2) Lists all the services completed;

(3) Identifies the name of successor counsel or the address, email address, and telephone number of the party acting in proper person; and

~~(4) Notifies the party subject to the limited scope representation and all other interested parties shall have 7 days to file an objection to withdrawal stating the reasons for the objection and requesting a hearing.~~

~~(b) The party subject to the limited scope representation and all other interested parties shall have 7 days to file an objection to withdrawal stating the reasons for the objection and requesting a hearing.~~

(be) The Notice of Completion of Services in Limited Scope Representation must be served upon the party subject to the limited scope representation and all other parties to the action.

~~(d) The limited scope attorney shall then be allowed to withdraw from the matter if no objection is filed and the court determines the services in the limited scope representation are complete.~~

~~7. If the attorney fails to comply with these requirements:~~

~~(a) The attorney shall be deemed to have made a general appearance and shall be responsible for all aspects of the case until order of the court.~~

~~(b) The court may, on motion or on its own, order sanctions, including a requirement that the party failing to comply pay the reasonable expenses, including attorney fees, caused by the failure, unless the failure was substantially justified or other circumstances make an award of expenses unjust.~~

8. Nothing in this rule shall prevent an attorney acting in a limited scope from otherwise withdrawing on order of the court pursuant to RPC 1.16 prior to the completion of the limited scope of services.

9. These rules are adopted to facilitate a pilot program with respect to the provision by attorneys of unbundled legal services in Nevada. These rules take effect November 1, 2022, and shall expire on November 1, 2024, unless further extended by the court.

10. The provisions of these pilot rules apply in every judicial district; to the extent a district has preexisting rules concerning unbundled representation, those rules do not apply to representation undertaken after and during the effective period of these pilot rules. To that extent, D.C.R. 5 is suspended.

Attorney: _____
Bar No: _____
Firm: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____
Attorney for: _____

**IN THE _____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF _____, STATE OF NEVADA**

PLAINTIFF,

Plaintiff,

v.

DEFENDANT,

Defendant.

Case No.:

Dept.:

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF SERVICES IN LIMITED SCOPE REPRESENTATION

1. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement between _____, Plaintiff/Defendant herein, and undersigned counsel, undersigned counsel agreed to provide limited scope representation in the above-entitled matter.
2. Undersigned counsel was retained as attorney of record only for the services described in the Notice of Limited Scope of Representation filed in this matter or entered on the record in this matter on _____ (date). The Notice of Limited Scope Representation is attached.
3. The court did or did not require additional services to be completed.
4. Undersigned counsel completed all services within the scope of the representation on _____ (date). The services completed were:

Services Completed

5. Undersigned counsel has caused or confirmed that the limited scope party has been added to the electronic service list or received a waiver of any electronic filing system used or required to be used by the Court.

6. The contact information for substitute counsel or the Plaintiff/Defendant in proper person is:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

~~7. The Plaintiff/Defendant and all other interested parties shall have seven days to file an Objection to this Notice of Completion of Limited Scope Representation stating the reasons for the objection and requesting a hearing.~~

DATED: _____

Respectfully submitted,
FIRM

By: _____
Attorney
Nevada Bar No.
Email
Attorney for:

~~NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES~~

~~Undersigned counsel has filed a Notice of Completion of Services of the limited scope representation in this matter. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that you have seven (7) days to object if you believe that the attorney has not completed all of the agreed upon services. A hearing on this matter will not be held unless an objection is filed and served on all parties and counsel in this matter. If no objection is filed, an order granting the withdrawal of undersigned counsel in this matter may be entered without further notice.~~

~~DATED: _____~~

~~_____ Respectfully submitted,
_____ **FIRM**~~

~~By: _____
_____ Attorney
_____ Nevada Bar No.
_____ Email
_____ Attorney for:~~

Rule 48.1 Revision to Allow Fee Waivers –

Rule 48.1. Procedure for change of judge by peremptory challenge.

1. In any civil action pending in a district court, which has not been appealed from a lower court, each side is entitled, as a matter of right, to one change of judge by peremptory challenge. Each action or proceeding, whether single or consolidated, shall be treated as having only two sides. A party wishing to exercise the right to change of judge shall file a pleading entitled “Peremptory Challenge of Judge.” The notice may be signed by a party or by an attorney, it shall state the name of the judge to be changed, and it shall neither specify grounds, nor be accompanied by an affidavit. If one of two or more parties on one side of an action files a peremptory challenge, no other party on that side may file a separate challenge.

2. A notice of peremptory challenge of judge shall be filed in writing with the clerk of the court in which the case is pending and a copy served on the opposing party. The filing shall be accompanied by a fee of \$450, which the clerk shall transmit to the clerk of the supreme court, unless the party is proceeding in forma pauperis, is a “client of a program for legal aid” as defined by NRS 12.015(8), or has otherwise qualified and been accepted for representation through a program for legal aid, in which case no fee will be collected. The fee shall be collected by the clerk of the supreme court and deposited in the state treasury for the support of the travel and reasonable and necessary expenses of district judges, senior justices and judges, and former justices and judges incurred in the performance of judicial duties, and, thereafter for other expenditures deemed reasonable and necessary by the supreme court. Within 2 days of the notice of peremptory challenge having been filed, the clerk of the district court shall:

(a) In a judicial district in which there are more than two departments, randomly reassign the case to another judge within the district;

(b) In a judicial district in which there are two or less departments, assign the case to the remaining judge. Alternatively, the presiding judge in the district may request the chief justice to assign the case to a judge of another district.

3. Except as provided in subsection 4, the peremptory challenge shall be filed:

(a) Within 10 days after notification to the parties of a trial or hearing date; or

(b) Not less than 3 days before the date set for the hearing of any contested pretrial matter, whichever occurs first.

4. If a case is not assigned to a judge before the time required for filing the peremptory challenge, the challenge shall be filed:

(a) Within 3 days after the party or his attorney is notified that the case has been assigned to a judge; or

(b) Before the jury is sworn, evidence taken, or any ruling made in the trial or hearing, whichever occurs first.

5. A notice of peremptory challenge may not be filed against any judge who has made any ruling on a contested matter or commenced hearing any contested matter in the action. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8, a peremptory challenge may not be filed against any judge who is assigned to or accepts a case from the overflow calendar or against a senior or pro tempore judge assigned by the supreme court to hear any civil matter.

6. The judge against whom a peremptory challenge is filed shall not contact any party or the attorney representing any party, nor shall the judge direct any communication to the clerk of the district court with respect to reassignment of the case in which the peremptory challenge was filed.

7. The filing of an affidavit of bias or prejudice without specifying the facts upon which the disqualification is sought, which results in a transfer of the action to another district judge is a waiver of the parties’ rights under this rule. A peremptory challenge under this rule is a waiver of the parties’ rights to transfer the matter to another judge by filing an affidavit of bias or prejudice without specifying the facts upon which the disqualification is sought.

8. When a senior judge is appointed to hear a trial or dispositive motion more than 30 days prior to the trial or hearing, a party may follow the procedures in this rule to exercise a peremptory challenge to change the senior judge assigned to the trial or hearing. If a senior judge is assigned to such matter less than 30 days before the matter is to be decided, the parties may not exercise a peremptory challenge. A party may exercise one peremptory challenge against a senior judge in addition to the one peremptory challenge against a judge allowed by subsection 1 of this Rule.

9. Notwithstanding the prior exercise of a peremptory challenge, in the event that the action is reassigned for any reason other than the exercise of a peremptory challenge, each side shall be entitled, as a matter of right, to an additional peremptory challenge.

[Added; effective July 20, 1979; amended effective January 12, 2011.]



ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

MEMO

Date: November 15, 2024
To: Access to Justice Commission
From: Doreen Spears Hartwell, Chair, ATJC Nominating Committee
CC: ATJC Nominating Committee, Brad Lewis

RE: Access to Justice Commission Nominating Committee Recommendation

A vote on a new Commission members is needed. Below are recommended for a vote by the ATJC Nominating Committee.

<u>Nominated, SCR 15 slot:</u>	<u>Reappoint or replace/organization, slot:</u>	<u>Term to expire:</u>
Margaret Lambrose, 2(i)	Marisa Rodriguez /public attorney 2(i) ¹	7/1/27
David Spitzer, 2(e)	Lisa Evans /Northern Nevada Legal Aid	7/1/27

We are happy to answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

¹Fomerly State Bar of Nevada board representative. Previously voted to continue as non-bar representative.

IOLTA Rate Review Committee vote for rates effective December 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025:

- Standard rate – 1.25%
- Leadership Institution rate – 1.50%
- Platinum Partner rate – 2.25% or greater

2025 Goal Notes –

Key initiative ideas – (outside of Section Pro Bono Challenge, IOLTA/outreach, dues check off, etc.)

- Update Statewide Service Delivery Plan (SSDP)
- Implement new ATJC application for approval
- Develop a process for annual receipt of Nevada Bar Foundation legal aid provider submissions
- Develop an ATJC-specific outline for benchmarking services
- Rollout of statewide self-help guided interviews/explainer videos with Ask-A-Lawyers
- Address retired with EAPB certification CLE rule
- Consider EAPB application session with CLE and follow-on, post-approval Ask-A-Lawyer followed by social event (lunch, drinks, etc.)

Nationwide AJC trends scan –

- Common themes
 - Facilitate coordination and collaboration among providers
 - Address service gaps
 - Improve self-help, easy-to-get and understand plain language forms and information
 - Support programs that encourage the practice of law in underserved communities
 - Recommend simplified court processes and procedures
 - Support language access
- Interesting concepts
 - Develop key working group – E.g. housing, consumer debt, family law, ecosystem
 - Develop best practices for handling cases involving self-represented litigants
 - Scan trends in AI for legal aid
- Big ideas
 - Develop court-based legal facilitators
 - Develop online dispute resolution platform
 - Engage [Pew Court & Communities](#) on *4 Strategies to Improve People's Appearance in court* or adapt key improvements advocated

What do you see as being the biggest AJC issue or opportunity to address? [Email Brad.](#)

With your input, we will focus on the top priorities.

Boyd Law School Working to Address Rural Legal Services Provider Shortage in Nevada

BY PROFESSOR RACHEL ANDERSON,
WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW AT UNLV

Throughout the U.S., there are “large stretches of rural areas and counties with few lawyers in them” and, therefore, a lack of access to legal services.¹ These areas are referred to as legal deserts. Nevada is no exception. Most of the lawyers in Nevada are located in the urban counties, like Clark, Washoe, and Carson City, which have 6.26, 2.73, and 3.56 attorneys, respectively, per 1,000 residents.^{2,3} Rural counties have far less access to legal services. In some rural counties like Lyon, Mineral, and Nye, there is less than one attorney per 1,000 residents. The need is even greater than represented by these numbers, because some of those attorneys are government attorneys who do not provide private legal services to rural residents.

The William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV is actively exploring innovative solutions and implementing measures to contribute to increasing rural access to legal services in Nevada. There are a variety of ways that law schools can encourage law students to serve rural communities, including raising awareness of legal issues and needs that are unique to rural communities, encouraging (and even incentivizing) attorneys to relocate to rural areas and counties, and making it possible for law students to obtain a legal education without leaving their homes, families, and communities. Boyd has implemented a number of these measures, including a pipeline program, a paid rural externship program, the incorporation of the legal issues and needs of rural communities into law school classes, and a task force on the accessibility of legal education.

Faculty Engagement and Curricular Design

Boyd faculty are engaging with rural issues through work with relevant entities and curricular design. Professor Rachel Anderson serves on the Nevada Supreme Court’s Access to Justice Commission. Associate Dean Eve Hanan was selected by the parties in the *Davis* lawsuit to serve as the monitor for the consent judgment.⁴ She also works closely with the Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) and has

written 11 reports on DIDS compliance activities. Professor Bret Birdsong has also served as deputy solicitor for land resources at the Department of the Interior in Washington, where he led a team of lawyers for the Bureau of Land Management, which manages 70 percent of the land in Nevada.⁵

Rural issues arise in many Boyd classes and a few examples are included here. Birdsong teaches Public Lands and Natural Resources, which examines some of the major natural resource issues, including minerals, timber, range, wilderness, and threatened and endangered species. He also teaches a class that requires field work in various parts of Nevada. Professor David Tanenhaus's Juvenile Law course includes materials on juvenile justice and indigenous youth. A juvenile protection officer/truant officer from Nye County comes to his class to discuss their work with children and families in rural parts of the state. Professor Addie Rolnick covers issues related to rural tribal courts, and Nevada tribes in general, in her class, Tribal Law and Governance. In addition, Rolnick teaches about rural law enforcement in her class, Crime and Justice in Indian Country.

In Professor Lori Johnson's Professional Responsibility class, she often leads discussions about the lack of counsel available in rural jurisdictions and the increased potential for various ethical issues, including conflicts, competence, prosecutorial misconduct, and judicial recusal. The author's Poverty Law & Policy Clinic incorporates needs and issues in rural and tribal communities. Professor Benjamin Edwards addresses land issues in his Property Law class. In Professor Marketa Trimble's International Intellectual Property class, they discuss in detail geographical indication protection – e.g., Nevada wine – and its role in the development of rural areas as well as the development of businesses, including small businesses and businesses in rural areas. Professor Keith Rowley addresses rural issues like livestock, farming, ranching, and rural property transactions in the cases and problems used in his Contracts, Sales

& Leases, and Secured Transactions classes. A highlight of Boyd's curricular design is the rural externship program discussed below.

Rural Externship Program

Working together with Boyd, DIDS has created a rural externship program for Boyd students. Rural externships are part of the Samuel S. Lionel Externship Program, which is led by Professor Dawn Nielsen. Participants in this annual program participate in a 10-week program that introduces Boyd students to public interest law practice in a rural area or county. Participating law students receive a stipend to support their relocation and participation in the program. For the first two years, the State Bar of Nevada funded the stipend. Now, the grant is funded by DIDS after approval of funding by the Interim Finance Committee.

Law students who receive the DIDS's summer stipend and enroll in the externship course receive an additional Samuel S. Lionel Fellow Summer Scholarship to pay for the cost of summer credits. The stipends help law students offset the costs of relocating and living in a rural area or county for eight to 10 weeks during the summer. Since Summer 2022 when the rural externship program was created, law students have been placed with the Elko County Public Defender, State Public Defender, Lincoln County District Attorney, and Churchill County Public Defender.

Law Student Engagement

Student organizations are also engaging in rural outreach. The Latino Law Student Association at Boyd offers an access point to legal education, mentoring and support. This program is a "national recognized and award-winning" four-layer mentorship program

that pairs a high school student, an undergrad, a Boyd law student, and a local J.D. holder.⁶ The program brings students to the law school for three days to observe and experience legal education and covers all of the costs with a grant. The program operates throughout Nevada. For example, the last cohort of 20 students included several students from rural counties.

Task Force on Making Legal Education Accessible to All Nevadans

In fall 2023, Dean Leah Grinvald created the task force on Making Legal Education Accessible to All Nevadans. Grinvald charged the task force with exploring whether and how Boyd

Grinvald charged the task force with exploring whether and how Boyd could provide accessible legal education to all Nevadans by reaching into communities whose members are unable to attend law school without having to relocate, leave their families, or cease their employment.

could provide accessible legal education to all Nevadans by reaching into communities whose members are unable to attend law school without having to relocate, leave their families, or cease their employment. The task force members are Anderson (chair), Assemblywoman Shea Backus, Birdsong, Julie Cavanaugh-Bill (current president of the State

Bar of Nevada's Board of Governors), Justice James Hardesty (ret.), 3L student Rodolfo Hernandez Camacho, Mercedes Krause, Senator Rochelle T. Nguyen, John Ocegüera, Professor Lena Mancini Rieke, and Assemblyman Toby Yurek. The task force is expected to complete its work and issue a report by the end of June 2024. Following the completion of the report, which will include recommendations, the next step toward implementation would be for the dean to charge the Boyd faculty's Curriculum Committee to take up the matter.

Law schools have an important role to play in addressing the issue of legal deserts in rural areas in their states. By providing students with practical experience and education in rural law, developing pipelines, and creating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Boyd Law School Working to Address Rural Legal Services Provider Shortage in Nevada

initiatives that support and encourage students from rural areas and counties, Boyd is playing an important role in bridging the gap and ensuring that all Nevadans, regardless of whether they live in an urban or a rural county, have access to quality legal representation.



PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

ENDNOTES:

1. American Bar Association, "Legal deserts threaten justice for all in rural America," Aug. 3, 2020, <https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2020/08/legal-deserts-threaten-justice/?login>.
2. American Bar Association, "ABA Profile of the Legal Profession 2020, July 2020," <https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/news/2020/07/potlp2020.pdf>.
3. Soval Solutions, LLC, "Addressing the Rural Indigent Defense Service Provider Shortage in Nevada," prepared for the Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services, 6 Feb. 2023, <https://dids.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/didsnvgov/content/litigation/Rural%20Attorney%20Recruitment%20-%202022-6-23.pdf>.
4. *Davis v. State of Nevada*
5. Henry Brean, UNLV professor to lead BLM public lands legal team, July 9, 2013, www.reviewjournal.com/local/local-las-vegas/unlv-professor-to-lead-blm-public-lands-legal-team/.
6. William S. Boyd School of Law website, La Voz, <https://law.unlv.edu/students/student-organizations/lv>.



PROFESSOR RACHEL J. ANDERSON, William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV, is a recipient of the State Bar of Nevada's Medal of Justice award, a member of the Nevada Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission and served as General Counsel for the Office of the Nevada Attorney General from 2019 to 2021.

EXPERT MANAGEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE RESOLUTION



ATKIN



BARKER



BECKER



YOUNG



GIULIANI



GLASS



GONZALEZ



HAIRE



KUNIN



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Elder Grant Library Legal Kiosk Project

The Legal Kiosk Project has continued to make progress since the last meeting. Four new kiosks were installed in Northern Nevada in August, specifically at the Douglas County Library in Minden, the Humboldt County Library in Winnemucca, and the Downtown Reno and Sparks libraries in the Washoe County Library System. These, and two additional kiosks anticipated to be installed later in November, will be the last kiosks installed under the current funding. Trainings were conducted for staff of the new host libraries by web developer A2J Tech on the technical aspects of using the kiosks, and Ann Walsh Long, Director of the Nevada Supreme Court Law Library, and Project Manager Susan Myers of Nevada Legal Services conducted a virtual training on using the kiosks to provide patrons with legal information (vs. legal advice) and referrals to resources. The top five kiosk locations in terms of usage to date are Churchill County, East Las Vegas, Elko County, Carson City, and Pahrump. The reallocation of the Justice Bus funds to the kiosk project made it possible to engage a public relations firm, and advertisements are being strategically placed around the state.



Access to Justice Highlights 3rd Quarter 2024

Overall Stats

Total Cases/Clients Helped				
	1 st Qtr	2 nd Qtr	3 rd Qtr	4 th Qtr
Consumer Rights Project	3,407	4,776	4,982	
Guardianship Advocacy Project	2,777	2,863	2,916	
Family Justice Project	844	846	920	
Immigration Advocacy Project	1,510	1,541	1,553	
Children’s Attorneys Project	3,247	4,141	5,087	
Education Advocacy Program	321	337	249	
Volunteer Education Advocacy Program	171	166	157	
Civil Law Self-Help Center	15,426	14,353	15,413	
Family Law Self-Help Center	21,893	23,387	23,877	
Resiliency & Justice Center	1,054	1,070	890	
Community Legal Education Classes ¹	979	860		
Pro Bono Regular Cases Placed	137	126	140	
Pro Bono CAP Cases Placed				
AAL Clients Served	1,558	1,488		
TOTAL SERVED	53,324	55,954		

¹ Beginning October 1, the William S. Boyd School of Law Christine Smith Community Service Program is piloting a program with Legal Aid Center’s Pro Bono Project. Students are now providing community support in two ways: 1) by teaching in-person legal education classes once a month to members of the community with questions related to Small Claims, Guardianship, Divorce, and Child Custody, and 2) by working one-on-one with clients and pro bono attorneys to help them prepare for Ask-A-Lawyer Small Claims, Guardianship, Divorce, and Child Custody advising and counseling sessions. We are continuing weekly classes on Record Sealing, Tenants’ Rights, and Bankruptcy.

Advocacy & Justice Complex

Legal Aid Center's work to right wrongs and change lives is critical, and to continue this work, additional space is vital. We have quadrupled the number of clients we have served and the staff to serve them over the past ten years. It is for that reason that we announced our campaign to construct the **Advocacy & Justice Complex**. Our effort is close to being a reality. A few updates:

The entitlements for the project were recently approved by the Las Vegas City Council. As our architect was finalizing the concept for the building, it became apparent to him that the most cost-effective way to construct parking on the site would be to request that Eighth Street, between our two buildings, be vacated and our existing parking garage on the corner of Eighth & Gass be expanded over Eighth Street. Our architect indicated that this would save us millions of dollars in constructing parking as well as ongoing maintenance costs which would be incurred if we were forced to construct underground parking. While City Planning staff recommended denial of this request (probably due to "Badlands" fear of any non-conforming use), the Mayor and City Council unanimously approved our request for variances and vacation of Eighth Street.

Now that our entitlements have been approved, final drawings are now being prepared. We will then submit the drawings/plans to the various departments in the City. The traffic signal at Eighth Street needs to be reconfigured and utilities need to be relocated. Our contractor will bring on the subcontractors, and building can commence. We are beyond excited to be at this juncture.

Since we began this capital campaign, the building design was modified due to the need to move the parking garage, the brickwork and brise soleil that ties the building to the history of the community will now be salvaged and stored for use on the new structure, and inflation and higher labor costs are adding to the cost of the building. We are watching the cost escalation and will likely need to raise additional funding once we reach our initial goal.

Fundraising: Our fundraising continues (thermometer attached). Thanks to early support and new connections, many others have joined our campaign. As of today, we have raised \$27,751,738! We continue to reach out to other donors to complete the campaign.

Overall Highlights

Community Outreach Events

On August 16, we held our second annual Clean Slate Record Sealing event at the North Las Vegas Justice Court. This event is the culmination of months of hard work by our staff and many community partners. At the end of the day, we sealed the records of 142 people. Favorite take away: One woman told us she had stage 4 cancer and sealing her record was something she had wanted to do for many years. She said, "Now I can go happy!"

In addition to our Record Sealing event, we participated in 39 outreach events helping 773 clients.

2024-2025 Paul Padda Law Community Justice Fellow



Our 2024-25 Community Justice Fellow is Samuel Reyes. Sam is the first Legal Aid Center legal advocate to be named the Community Justice Fellow. Sam was a legal advocate in our Consumer Rights Project while attending the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV in the part-time program. He was inspired to go to law school to conquer structural and systemic barriers to effectuate change. We are so proud he has graduated and chose to join us for this year-long fellowship! As part of the Community Justice Fellowship sponsored by Paul Padda Law, Sam is rotating through Legal Aid Center's project areas while learning valuable new skills.

New Initiatives

CAP 25th Anniversary Celebration



On September 21st we celebrated the 25th anniversary of our CAP program at the Springs Preserve. Attending the event were hundreds of former and current child clients. We were all blown away to see a 2 ½ year old client dancing to the beat of the music of Taylor Swift's *Shake It Off* performed by a Taylor Swift impersonator we hired for the event. This toddler owed her ability to hear and dance to the music to one of our dedicated attorneys who fought all the way to the Nevada Supreme Court so that she could obtain cochlear implants to hear. Her biological deaf parents did not want her to hear, but sadly failed to visit their child while in foster care. A perfect example of how our attorneys change lives every day!

Spanish Podcast(s) and Interviews

We are working hard to increase our visibility and connect with people in the Spanish-speaking community. Jordan Savage, a bilingual attorney in the Consumer Rights Project, has conducted several interviews with Telemundo on services Legal Aid Center provides, consumer scams, tenant's rights, and habitability issues, as well as appearing on a Nevada Independent En Espanol podcast talking about how to avoid solar panel scams.

Elizabeth Gomez, a bilingual advocate on our Record Sealing team, recently spoke to Telemundo about our record sealing services and our February 2025 record sealing event.

Stephany Garcia, a Consumer Rights advocate, and Jordan Savage continue to present tenants' rights and consumer scam presentations in the Clark County School District schools and in local libraries.

Publications

Gillian Barjon's article "**The Critical Role of an Educational Decision Maker for a Child in Foster Care**" is in the August 2024 **Communique**.

Awards and Features

The Las Vegas National Bar Association named **Angela Cook**, CAP Attorney, the 2024 Attorney of the Year. Angela will be honored at the LVNBA annual Scholarship Gala on November 2 at the Aria Resort and Casino.

Ellie Roohani, human trafficking attorney with the Resiliency & Justice Center, was featured as a Nevada Trailblazer in the **Nevada Lawyer**.

Presentations

Vanessa Aponte, 2024 Melanie Kushnir Fellow, at State Bar of Nevada Annual Bar Conference
https://www.instagram.com/p/C88Iw4ASPQUdMQGbWBPN_J8Fi1qy0K96KZ_wK80/

Pro Bono Project at Howard & Howard
<https://www.instagram.com/p/C9VNPUFz68j/>

Pro Bono Project at Claggett & Sykes
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DAHJ0pCNpDs/>

CAP at the Child Welfare Law Conference
https://www.instagram.com/p/C-kvBZtTsC9/?img_index=1

Legal Service Fund at the Mirage
https://www.instagram.com/p/C9ilRY2vC9A/?img_index=1

Debra Bookout at the Nevada Public Health Foundation's conference and Equal Justice Conference

https://www.instagram.com/p/C9vcsRxtjNG/?img_index=1

Legal Service Fund at Bartenders Local 165

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C-LTFDMuw-O/>

Immigration Advocacy Program at The Immigrant Home Foundation

https://www.instagram.com/p/C-sx_cbT51M/?img_index=2

Pro Bono Project at Small Business Ask-A-Lawyer

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C--11-tTE63/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DARrTl4t9yx/>

In early July, Tennille Pereira presented on four panels at the first National Mass Violence Summit put on by the National Mass Violence Center and Office for Victims of Crime.

In late July, Dewey Fowler and members of the CAP Education team presented on their efforts engaging with older youth at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) conference held in Phoenix, a conference attended by judges, lawyers, and court administrators from across the country. Attendees commended our staff's efforts and creativity at engaging older foster youth.



Noteworthy Articles and Videos Mentioning Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

1. <https://www.8newsnow.com/investigators/three-years-of-hell-tenants-describe-troubled-las-vegas-apartment-complex/>
2. <https://www.fox5vegas.com/2024/07/09/renting-your-ac-goes-out-nevada-law-your-rights/>
3. <https://www.businessinsider.nl/unprotected-at-the-margins-of-the-rental-market/>
4. <https://www.ktnv.com/news/what-happens-after-a-rental-fire-legal-expert-breaks-down-what-a-landlord-is-obligated-to-provide>
5. https://clarkcountynv.gov/news_detail_T28_R1044.php
6. <https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2024/07/30/large-missing-chunks-in-nevada-minor-guardianship-policies-lawmakers-told/74603273007/>
7. <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2024/aug/14/at-beam-hall-site-of-campus-shooting-increased-saf/>
8. <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/theres-still-hope-students-return-to-location-of-deadly-shooting-for-first-time/>
9. <https://www.fox5vegas.com/2024/08/28/homeowners-have-two-week-leave-somerset-park-water-system-deemed-danger-life-health-safety-residents/>
10. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/henderson/henderson-water-system-woes-unearthed-when-city-fixed-sinkhole-at-complex-3149050/>
11. <https://www.fox5vegas.com/2024/09/05/las-vegas-firefighters-react-nearly-1-million-towards-improving-mental-health-first-responders/>
12. <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/legal-aid-center-of-southern-nevada-assisting-somerset-park-residents-as-repair-deadline-approaches/>
13. https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/news_detail_T28_R1051.php
14. <https://www.fox5vegas.com/2024/09/19/las-vegas-city-council-pushes-legal-aid-center-expansion-forward/>
15. <https://www.kunc.org/2024-09-19/ammunition-vending-machines-are-coming-to-western-states-in-nevada-that-raises-concerns>
16. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/business/former-bank-building-in-downtown-las-vegas-to-be-renovated-3172871/>
17. <https://www.cortezmasto.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cortez-masto-marks-the-7th-anniversary-of-the-1-october-mass-shooting-on-the-senate-floor/>
18. <https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2024/09/wasspc-committee-focuses-on-mauis-mental-health-issues/>
19. <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2024/sep/28/las-vegas-community-to-pay-tribute-on-7th-annivers/>
20. <https://963kklz.com/2024/09/27/1-october-events-to-honor/>

Noteworthy Excerpts from Articles and Videos

3. “Even in locales with more protective laws, tenants in informal or unpermitted housing situations may think twice about rocking the boat, said Harrison Bohn, an attorney at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. The hardest part about people who live in these really odd lease

scenarios of either renting a room or renting a couch," he said, "is that if you do want to start a process of enforcing your rights, you are disrupting that relationship with your landlord."

...

That day in November 2023, she thought she'd get a chance to expose what she saw as her landlord's illegal pressure tactics. Instead, she found herself out of a home in a matter of minutes.

6. In one instance, Dalia-Hunt said temporary guardianship was needed for a child to seek treatment for kidney failure. The case was denied. Legal Aid was able to appeal the case to the Nevada Supreme Court, along with several other cases, and have temporary guardianship granted. "Those kids were lucky enough to have an attorney who was practicing in this area for the last five years," said Jonathan Norman, policy director with the Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers.

8. He added some students and staff he greeted Monday were "struggling more" than others. Arnold Vasquez, the university's interim police services director, directed them to help. "Everybody goes through this process differently. We have the Resiliency Center here that has been incredibly involved with our recovery, as well as our Rebel Recovery Program," Vasquez said, standing near the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's Resiliency & Justice Center table inside the atrium Monday morning. "We're always here for them whether they see us sometimes or not."

10. Related to the Sumerset complex water issue in Henderson the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada was there to assist tenants with breaking their lease. "Tenants are our number one priority," said Venicia Considine, the director of development and community relations.

11. "Just imagine the mass stress that's associated with again receiving 911 calls where people again are requesting assistance for the worst day possible," Gray said. That's something mental health expert, Tennille Pereira of the Resiliency and Justice Center, formerly the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center knows about all too well.

12. Related to the Sumerset complex water issue in Henderson - As the situation continues, she says legal aid is still ready to work with residents, whether homeowner or tenant. "The process is not over. And Legal Aid will continue to remain steadfast in their commitment to providing resources and assistance," Kiraly said.

15. Helping people cope with that ongoing trauma is one reason the Resiliency and Justice Center in Las Vegas was established. "When people are struggling and they're isolated, it just goes downhill from there," said Tennille Pereira, director of the center.

Social Media Impact

There were 145,689 impressions (views on screen) of posts from all our accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, TikTok, and YouTube. Legal Aid Center's client-facing Eventbrite profile is hitting an important milestone as we reach 3K followers (currently at 2,979). Here is how we compare to similar organizations with active accounts:

Legal Hand Call-In Center (New York): 20
Legal Aid ACT (Australia): 198
Centre For Public Legal Education Alberta: 214
Legal Aid Agency (UK): 1.1K
Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts: 1.1K
Legal Aid of North Carolina: 4.1K

Consumer Rights Project Case Highlights

Smith vs. Social Security Administration – The claimant is 42 years old and filed her claim for disability insurance benefits in 2021 alleging disability back to 2020. The claimant was initially approved for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) disability benefits in February 2021 but disapproved for SSD (Social Security Disability) due to her date of last insured of September 30, 2020. The claimant was experiencing extreme financial hardship despite receiving SSI benefits and appealed the denial of her SSD disability claim. She was referred to Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for representation due to her inability to obtain representation from private attorneys. The claimant has been unable to work since 2020 due to her auto-immune disease, encephalopathy, and end stage chronic liver disease. Legal Aid represented the claimant at her Administrative Law hearing on July 22, 2024 before Judge Zeidman. Legal Aid submitted additional records supporting her claim for disability prior to her date of last insured, along with a hearing brief describing her past work and inability to continue working due to her severe medical impairments. The claimant testified regarding her chronic abdominal swelling requiring weekly hospital treatments, her frequent fever, vomiting, chronic cough, weakness, excessive swelling in her legs, and need to be placed on a liver transplant list. The Administrative Law Judge granted SSD benefits to the claimant which now allows her to have both Medicaid and Medicare insurance benefits, as well as increased amount of monthly disability benefits and a back award of approx. \$35,000.00 to help with her medical and housing expenses.

**Name changed to protect client's confidentiality*

Guardianship Advocacy Project Case Highlights

Juan* had just recently turned eighteen when his parents filed for guardianship. Juan's pediatrician completed a physician's certificate explaining his diagnoses and functioning. It painted a picture of Juan as being extremely low functioning and essentially unable to care for himself at all. When Juan's attorney met with him, she was surprised to find that this was not the case at all. Juan presented confidently, initiating a handshake and an enthusiastic greeting. Juan was able to comprehend what guardianship, and the consequences of it, meant. He acknowledged there were many things he did not know how to do, as is the case for most teenagers, but expressed a desire to learn how to take care of himself, rather than having someone do everything for him. He wanted his parents to continue to help him in life, but not take over everything.

With Juan's consent, his mother joined the conversation. When asked about why she was pursuing guardianship, she explained that they had gone to the doctor's office and Juan needed help answering some of the questions on the form he was filling out. When she attempted to help him with the questions, the doctor's office told her she was not allowed because Juan was eighteen now and she had to go get guardianship. Juan's mother filed for guardianship purely so she would be able to help him at the doctor's office. Her lack of legal knowledge, as well as a language barrier, meant she was not aware of any other options to help him.

When Juan's attorney explained how restrictive guardianship was and educated them on alternatives to guardianship, such as a Power of Attorney, that could accomplish their goals, they were surprised and very receptive. Juan and his mother returned to his attorney's office later to complete a Power of Attorney. Juan was relieved to maintain his independence, but still maintain his parents' support. The guardianship was denied as there was a less restrictive alternative available.

**Names have been changed to protect confidentiality*

Family Justice Project Case Highlights

Maria's* case had been ongoing for almost three years. Though the parties resided in the same home, her husband continued to pursue sole legal and primary physical custody. Though the parties lived together throughout the case, they stayed in separate bedrooms. Husband attempted to alienate the minor child from client, including making the child sleep in his bedroom with him (child was 14). He further alleged that our client was an unfit mother, though both parties equally cared for the child. If Maria did not lock things in her bedroom, her husband would throw them away. After multiple settlement conferences, the husband conceded to the parties sharing joint legal and joint physical custody. Maria was also awarded the residence following a refinance where she continues to live with her son.

**Names have been changed to protect confidentiality*

Immigration Advocacy Project Case Highlights

Rosa* came to Legal Aid Center for assistance in 2017. Rosa was a victim of felonious assault from a gunman from the Route 91 concert shooting. The perpetrator gunman was shooting at a crowd using AR rifles from a high-rise. Rosa was inside a trailer working maintaining restrooms. She heard shots and people screaming. She opened the door and saw people running towards an exit. She closed the door, turned off the lights, and ran into a stall. Feeling the wall, she realized how easy a bullet can pierce through it and prayed. The police rescued her. Rosa suffers from depression, mood anxiety, panic attacks, and has difficulty sleeping. Although Rosa has been living in the United States for over 30 years and has 3 USC children she did not have a pathway to lawful status. We applied for a U-Visa for Rosa since she is a victim of a qualifying crime, suffered substantial physical and emotional abuse, and cooperated with law enforcement. Since Rosa is married, the U-Visa allows her husband to be joined in her petition. Recently,

USCIS granted Deferred Action to Rosa and her husband meaning they can live and work in the United States while their U-Visa petition continues to be processed since only 10,000 U-Visas are given each year. After the U-Visa is granted, Rosa and her husband will be using their U-Visa to adjust status to Lawful Permanent Residence.

**Names have been changed to protect confidentiality*

Children's Attorneys Project Case Highlights

Hope* is a teenager whose mother passed away unexpectedly, father is a registered sex offender, adult sibling is physically abusive of Hope, and stepfather left her to fend for herself and find her own food. When Hope was removed from her stepfather's care because he failed to protect Hope from the adult sibling's repeated physical abuse, Clark County Family Services' plan was to reunify Hope with her stepfather. Hope has never felt loved or supported by her stepfather, who tried to cut her off from her mother's family. Hope had to beg for food and often stayed with a friend whose parents would feed her and give her shelter. Within days of being assigned the case and meeting Hope, Hope's Legal Aid Center attorney worked diligently to establish that the stepfather had no legal custody or guardianship of Hope. This opened the door to Family Services considering other options for Hope aside from reunifying with her stepfather.

Hope has one light in her life, and that is her Auntie Laticia,* who is mom's sister. Hope's attorney counseled Hope on the benefit of an aggressive plan to convince Family Services and the District Attorney to support Hope's request to live with Auntie Laticia permanently. During a very long meeting, Hope's attorney drew out from her all the reasons stepfather was not safe, was not supportive, and was actively neglectful, as well as all of the reasons why Hope wanted to stay with Auntie Laticia. Hope's Legal Aid Center attorney crafted a lengthy email to Family Services and the District Attorney detailing Hope's wishes and all of the reasons she so desperately did not want to return to stepdad and wanted to live with Auntie Laticia, and it worked! Less than one week after receiving that email, Family Services confirmed that they were on board with Hope's plan and would be working towards a permanency plan with Auntie Laticia. So now, less than 60 days after Hope was removed from stepdad's care, Hope knows that her entire team will be working towards permanency with an Auntie who loves her dearly and is committed to meeting her needs.

**Names changed to protect clients' confidentiality.*

Education Advocacy Program Highlights

Legal Aid Center represented a community parent seeking to rectify CCSD's failures on behalf of her daughter, Maria. Despite having been passed through to the 11th grade at CCSD and despite having an IEP, Maria could not read. The reason for this was because she was dyslexic, but had never been identified as a student with dyslexia in her entire time at CCSD schools. To address this universal failure, the Legal Aid Center Education Advocacy Program filed a due

process complaint against the Clark County School District on behalf of Maria, arguing not only had CCSD failed to provide Maria with a free and appropriate public education, but that CCSD had deliberately concealed relevant information from Maria's mother – namely, that Maria was still struggling with basic reading – for years, choosing to pass her ahead instead of meeting her unique needs. Because Maria is a bright girl, she was able to memorize enough to always test right above the threshold that would flag her for dyslexia. Nonetheless, CCSD repeatedly encouraged mom to waive re-evaluation of Maria, saying there was no need to revise the IEP that she had had since preschool or question her eligibility.

The District for over a decade had denied Maria the help she needed and was entitled to under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Nevada law by denying that she was dyslexic without ever evaluating her for indicators of dyslexia that were evident in her school reports going back to elementary school. Making matters even worse, CCSD had misled mom, saying that Maria did not have issues with reading. Mom did what most parents do—she trusted the professional educators to determine what was best for her daughter.

Following the filing of the due process complaint, Legal Aid Center negotiated a settlement agreement with the District in which the District agreed to pay for approximately two years of private, intensive, specialized dyslexia intervention to ensure that the student is able to pursue her goal of post-secondary education upon graduation from high school.

Resiliency & Justice Center Case Highlights

Kelly* came to the Resiliency & Justice Center as a survivor of sex trafficking seeking assistance with criminal record sealing/vacatur. Over the course of two years more than a decade ago, Kelly's trafficker subjected her to force, fraud, and coercion to make her prostitute herself for his benefit. For example, if Kelly did not make the quota set by her trafficker, he would physically abuse Kelly and also force her to take ice cold showers as punishment. Moreover, to prevent Kelly from escaping, her trafficker took her car forcing her to remain and prostitute herself for his financial benefit. While Kelly was able to escape the trafficking situation after two years, for more than a decade Kelly lived with the trauma inflicted by her trafficker and dozens of criminal charges for trespassing, solicitation, and prostitution, all related to her victimization. Kelly worked with our Human Trafficking Survivors' Rights Attorney on vacating her criminal record so she would not be defined by her victimization, she could seek better employment opportunities, and she could further her recovery and rehabilitation.

Previously, trafficking survivors had to wait almost 18-months to have their trafficking-related records vacated after being forced to recount the specifics of their exploitation in writing on the public record. Now, because of the relationship that our Human Trafficking Survivors' Rights Attorney fostered with the District Attorney's Office and the Court, Kelly was the beneficiary of an expedited trauma-informed process. In less than 6 months, Kelly's entire criminal history was vacated, and she did not have to publicly relive her trauma.

When our attorney told Kelly the good news about her records being vacated, Kelly wrote back immediately: “Thank you so much for taking the time to do this! This issue has been following me around like a dark cloud and even cost me a government job, along with many other opportunities, all from getting caught up with the wrong person. This has lifted an incredible burden off my shoulders, and I am forever grateful.”

Lily* contacted the Resiliency & Justice Center after her daughter was murdered by her domestic abuser. Lily was devastated and wanted to find mental health services to help her cope with her grief.

Lily’s Advocate facilitated her application for benefits through the Victims of Crime Program. Her Advocate was able to get Lily approved for not only counseling benefits but also for Funeral/Burial reimbursement that she had paid for creating an additional economic hardship. The funds were mailed out within the same week, which was of great assistance to Lily.

Lily was connected with the Resiliency & Justice Center’s Behavioral Health Navigator who assisted in locating a provider for Lily’s mental health needs. This case exemplifies the vital role our center plays in advocating for and protecting the rights of domestic violence survivors. By addressing legal obstacles and providing comprehensive support, we empower individuals like Lily to reclaim their lives and find safety and stability.

**Names changed to protect client’s confidentiality*



Access to Justice Commission
Summary Report for Q3 2024

Case Statistics for Q1 through Q3		
Assigned Program	Cases Opened	Cases Closed
Clean Slate Project	182	44
Consumer Law Project	334	250
Core Services	1219	1095
Farmworker	2	7
General	16	16
HIV Impact/LGBT+ Initiative	85	56
Indian Law	64	97
Pro Bono	443	379
Senior Law Project	252	222
Tenant's Rights Center	1766	1731
Veterans Law Project	166	101
TOTAL	4529	3998

Highlights

- Effective October 22, 2024, Alex Cherup has been named Executive Director of NLS after serving as the Interim Executive Director since January of 2024.
- NLS hosted our Champions of Justice celebrations in Reno at the Atlantis Casino Resort on October 2, 2024 and in Las Vegas at the Moon at Palms on October 17, 2024. We congratulate all our award recipients this year, including our Champions of Justice for 2024: the Access to Justice Commission and the Reno Justice Court!
- NLS has 1,435 cases in open status as of November 11, 2024.
- Housing issues continue to account for 70% of cases accepted for assistance overall. We also continue to see strong demand for family law, public benefits (e.g. unemployment, veteran's benefits, social security), consumer law, and record sealing.
- Not including reoccurring pro bono Ask-A-Lawyer clinics, NLS participated in 133 client-facing outreach events during Q3.
- In August, we celebrated the first anniversary of our North Las Vegas Justice Court weekly on-site outreach initiative.

- NLS attorneys participated in news stories regarding tenant rights when dealing with a broken A/C in the summer heat, as well as DETR's proposed use of AI software to process appeals in unemployment benefit matters.

DAVID SPITZER ESQ.
Interim Executive Director



Wednesday, October 6th, 2024

Attention: Brad Lewis
Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission
State Bar of Nevada
3100 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89102
Phone: 702-382-2200
Toll Free: 800-254-2797
E-mail: atj@nvbar.org
Re: Access to Justice Commission Report

Honorable Justices and Members of the Commission,

Northern Nevada Legal Aid served thousands of individuals in our community in the last four months alone, conducted important community outreach, and continues to work on developing the programs such as our Self-Help Center in partnership with Nevada Legal Services at the Reno Justice Court.

Matters worked on July 1st, 2024 through October 31st, 2024

Departments	Count of Matter/Case ID#
Adult Guardianship	707
Child Ad	805
Consumer-Housing (General)	161
General (Misc)	2
Immigration (General)	433
Intake	1
Jail	445
MLP	1
Not Entered	1
Pro Bono	3
Self Help	4,676
SLC	330
Victim Advocacy	50
(blank)	259
Grand Total	7,874



By the Numbers

- On October 15, 2024 the Self-Help Center assisted 94 clients, A new daily record for the unit.
- Senior Legal Center opened 520 cases year to date
 - In September Senior Legal Center opened 64 new files
- Adult Guardianship began representing 81 new Protected Persons from July 1st, 2024 to October 31st, 2024. We will remain on as their counsel as long as their cases are open and there is a need for Guardianship.
- Child Advocacy opened 129 cases of Neglected/Abused Independents, Adoptions, minor Guardianships, and Guardian Ad Litem.
- Our Victim Advocacy unit opened 21 cases of Temporary Restraining Orders and Divorce.

In the News

- Channel 2 News Tenant Rights in Nevada
 - https://www.2news.com/video/tenant-rights-in-nevada/video_0f2c0cdd-5031-55f9-acc7-d9e405602a96.html
- Reno News and Review
 - [Illegal to be unhoused: The U.S. Supreme Court determined local governments can enforce anti-camping laws—and local advocates are concerned • Reno News & Review \(renonr.com\)](#)
- Washoe County Bar Association's the Writ published two articles from NNLA employees, in the August-September issue and the October-November issue.

Some of many stories that highlight the good work NNLA has done from July 1st, 2024 through October 31st, 2024

Names and details have been changed to preserve anonymity.

NNLA Senior Legal Center Defends Disabled Senior in Medicaid Appeal

NNLA assisted a client after Medicaid sent her a notice that her services would be reduced and/or terminated. NNLA filed for a fair hearing appeal with Nevada Medicaid and was able to resolve the case and preserve all the client's services.



NNLA Self Help supports client to be heard in Reno Justice Court

Guadalupe was sued for over \$6000 in Small Claims, because she does not know English, even with her being properly served, she but did not understand the filings and did not show up for mediation. A Default Judgment was entered ordering Guadalupe to pay nearly \$7000.

Thankfully Guadalupe came to our Self-Help Center. With our support, she filed a Motion to set aside judgment, the party suing her did not oppose the motion. We helped her file her request for submission. The motion was granted.

Guadalupe was ordered to pay less than \$2,500. Thanks to the assistance of the Self-Help Center, Guadalupe was able to be heard by the judge and was ordered to pay much less than the amount originally requested by the plaintiff.

NNLA Self-help facilitates custody agreement in Second Judicial District Court

Juan has 5 children. He and his wife separated. Juan kept the 4 oldest and his wife kept the youngest child. Someone helped him fill out his paperwork, then he came to the Self-Help Center for guidance on how to file his petition. NNLA self-help guided him when he was distraught to see his youngest child again. With this guidance, he complied with all the Court's requirements. The case has not been concluded; however, Juan and his wife were able to reach an agreement in the mediation session defining the terms of custody and now Juan has joint physical custody of his youngest. Juan is elated that he is able to see his little one again.

NNLA helps victim of domestic violence with minor child in Housing dispute

NNLA took on representation for a victim of domestic violence living in Reno. She resided in the apartment with her toddler. After breaking the lease and moving into a new unit the landlord attempt to charge her over a thousand dollars in fees due to the damage in the old unit caused by the perpetrator through acts of violence. The Attorney for the Landlord was unwilling to dismiss the case and advised that not only were they seeking the fees owed, they indicated it may also affect her current status in the new unit. NNLA did extensive research and advocacy on behalf of the client, arguing that there were violations of both state law and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Ultimately, the landlord dismissed the charges against the client with zero financial obligation to the client so that she can focus on caring for her child and healing.



NNLA Adult Guardianship gets our client’s rights back

The Adult Guardianship team has facilitated the termination of several Protected Person guardianship cases in favor of less restrictive protection and thereby restoring the rights of the individual, including the right to vote. The team is currently working on getting the rights back for all other qualifying Protected Persons by executing Powers of Attorney and supported Decision Making Agreements which serve to provide an appropriate level of protections in a far less restrictive form.

Outreach and Community Events

Outreach events- each outreach event was tabled and staffed by volunteers from our office- each event had engaging activities for festival goers- from a Spin wheel to get prizes, to some Trivia questions pertinent to the event to get prizes, and for the Domestic Violence unit, purple prizes to represent the color of Domestic Violence awareness month. Prizes included NNLA branded stress relief gavels, bracelets, shopping bags, Chapstick, sunglasses, hand sanitizer, pens, paper, event specific stickers and candy. Participants enjoy the quick and fun engagement while getting a brochure of our services and explanation of services with each prize.

- PRIDE Outreach
- Fiesta on Wells Hispanic Heritage Outreach event
- Day of the Dead Outreach Event
- Domestic Violence Outreach Event

- Power of Attorney/Estate Seminars monthly
- Monthly “Ask a Lawyer” events at Washoe County Senior Centers/congregate meal sites in Washoe County

Full list of outreach events from July 1st, 2024 through October 31st, 2024

Date	Name
10/27/2024	Day of the Dead Festival
10/17/2024	Auctioning for Advocacy
10/15/2024	October 15 - POA Seminar
10/11/2024	Sparks Senior Center/Open House
10/10/2024	Senior Resource Health Fair for 2024!
10/08/2024	Seniors in Service
10/08/2024	Sparks Christian Fellowship

DAVID SPITZER ESQ.
Interim Executive Director



10/05/2024 Love Shouldn't Hurt: Break the Silence, End the Violence!
09/22/2024 Fiesta on Wells
09/17/2024 September 17 - POA Seminar
09/11/2024 Sparks POA Seminar
09/07/2024 Northern Nevada Pride
09/04/2024 Advisory Board
09/03/2024 Senior Fest
09/01/2024 Senior Seminars with the Nevada State Contractors Board
08/28/2024 BBB Presentation
08/21/2024 Engaged Resource Fair
08/20/2024 August 20-POA Seminar
08/14/2024 Cold Springs Community Center - Meet the SLC
08/07/2024 Advisory Board
08/06/2024 DD Council Self Advocacy Conference
07/25/2024 AARP-Sweet Summer Celebration
07/18/2024 Senior Resource Health Fair
07/16/2024 POA July 16/Estate Planning Seminar
07/11/2024 ATJC Service Rule
07/09/2024 Cold Springs Community Center-Meet the SLC



Date: October 29, 2024

To: Access to Justice Commission

From: Diane Fearon, Executive Director, Southern Nevada Senior Law Program

Re: June 2024 – September 2024

Hispanic Senior Outreach Initiative update:

Thanks to ADSD funding for this initiative, SLP has been able to increase the % of Hispanic seniors served between May 2023 and September 2024 by over 20%, from 10% to 12.2%.

Our quarterly Spanish speaking POA Health Care/Basic Estate Planning Workshops offered at the SLP office, and bi-annual Spanish speaking POAH Seminars which are held in the community at senior centers or senior communities, have expanded our reach and impact to this important underserved population. We are grateful for the support of bilingual pro bono attorneys who have made this possible. Our grant funding for this targeted outreach and education initiative to Hispanic seniors has concluded and we are seeking additional funding to continue increasing the visibility of SLP as a trusted resource for this underserved population.

Senior Advocates Pro Bono Program update:

We held our third annual SLP Salutes Senior Advocates event on October 23 to celebrate our Top Senior Advocate Pro Bono Attorneys and to recognize Justice Kristina Pickering and Mariteresa Rivera-Rogers, Esq. for substantial impact on behalf of vulnerable populations being able to access justice. SLP recruited 48 new pro bono attorneys between October 2023 and September 2024.

We welcomed over 250 attendees to the event and raised \$100,000 to support our Senior Advocate Pro Bono Program.

Director of Pro Bono Services Bill Voy has been highly successful in recruiting new attorneys and creating new pro bono opportunities at SLP. In July we hosted a POA Health Care Seminar at MLK Jr. Sr. Center, and in August we welcomed the law firm of Aguire Riley to the SLP office for a 3-hour Senior Sign a Thon by three attorneys and two paralegals from their office.

SLP Numbers June through September:

✓ Clients Served (Opened Files)*-(Non-Outreach)	750
✓ Outreach Numbers	6,574
✓ Assisted Without Litigation	720
✓ Represented in Litigation	30
✓ Participants in Clinics	198
✓ Clinics with Pro Bono Attorneys	17

Types of Client Matters (Closed Files)*	650
✓ Abuse/Elder Exploitation	10
✓ (DGDN) Estate Planning/Guardianship	464
✓ Housing/Foreclosure	89
✓ (Other) Consumer/Utilities	48
✓ Income/Public Benefits/LTHC	24
✓ Healthcare	15
✓ Civil Litigation	4
✓ Family Law	0

Outreach Activities:

June

1. Puentes- S. NV Regional Housing Authority- General Presentation	17 Attendees
2. Archwell Health Fair- General Presentation	30 Attendees
3. General Information Seminar at Royal Ridge Mobile Home Park on S. Decatur	25 Attendees
4. Will-A-Thon at East LV Community Center	49 Attendees
5. General Information Seminar at Merrill Gardens on Paseo Verde Parkway	19 Attendees
6. Maycliff Senior Mobile Home Park Tabling Event	20 Attendees
7. ID Theft/Scam Presentation on Van Wagenen	5 Attendees

July

1. Senior Resource Event at Affordable Senior Living Community on N. Jones	20 Attendees
2. "Guiding your Client through the Decision-Making Process for Simple Estate Planning" Presentation	95 Attendees
3. POA Health Care Seminar at MLK Senior Center	53 Attendees
4. Back-to-School Event 2024 at La Campensina located at East LV Community Center	1,000 Attendees

August

1. La Oportunidad Expo at the Boulevard Mall	5,000 Attendees
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2. ID Theft/Scam Presentation at Centennial Hills Active Adult Center 7 Attendees

September

1. Tabling Event at Cora Coleman Senior Center Senior Fair 50 Attendees
2. Presentation to Adult Protective Services 30 Attendees
3. Mini Sign-A-Thon at East Las Vegas Community Center 4 Attendees
4. Seniorpalooza at S. Valley View Blvd. 150 Attendees

Current Staffing Status:

SLP has seven attorneys on staff as of August 2024 which is up by two attorneys since June 2024. We are actively recruiting for an Intake Specialist/Legal Assistant.

Success Stories

Eviction Matter

Ben C. is a 73-year-old senior who was served a notice of Eviction. He vacated his apartment, and was cleaning the carpet when the Constable arrived on July 3, 2024 to evict him. The constable ordered him off the premises. Mr. C. indicated that he complied with the Constables order and gave the Constable the keys to the apartment when he was told to leave. The Landlord denies receiving the keys from the Constable.*

Mr. C. had a security deposit of \$2000. The landlord refused to return his \$2000 deposit. The accounting provided to our client indicated he owed \$2000 for July rent(since he vacated on 7/3) , an eviction charge of \$400, a lock change charge of \$119 a cleaning fee of \$300 and a trash charge of \$40. The landlord kept his \$2000 deposit and indicated that Mr. C. owed him a balance of \$599.

After numerous phone calls and letters with the management company, we were able to convince the management company that they were not able to charge Mr. C. the \$2000 rent for July 2024, since they evicted him on July 3, 2024, he was only liable for the rent from 7/1 through 7/3. The trash fee was also not applicable since Mr. C. had no trash picked up after 6/30/2024. The cleaning fee was partially returned as there were insufficient photographs to substantiate the necessity of a cleaning service , and Mr. C. had a receipt indicating he had the carpet cleaned on 7/2/2024. Mr. C. was correctly assessed the \$400 eviction fee reflected in his lease terms, the \$119 lock change fee as reflected in the lease terms, and partial rent from 7/1/2024 to 7/4/2024.

To his great relief, Mr. C. received a refund of \$1206, from the landlord once the SLP got involved and assisted him in his request to return of security deposit.

Defense of Guardianship/Basic Estate Planning

Ellen B. , a 77-year-old widow, came to SLP for Basic Estate Planning after hearing about our services at her local senior center. As her husband is deceased, she wanted to clarify the title on her house, which still bore his name, so that the titling would reflect that she is the sole owner. This becomes a necessary step should she decide to re-finance or sell the home. She always assumed that the house was titled in*

Joint Tenancy, however, when the SLP Senior Staff Attorney did research on her deed, it was discovered that the phrasing of the deed from 1996 did not include that all-important phrase “as Joint Tenants.” This meant that the property was held as Tenants-in-Common, and represented an error on the part of the original title company.

The consequence of this is that Ellen would need to pursue an expensive Probate Set-Aside action through the Court to obtain clear title to the home, rather than executing a simple Affidavit of Death of Joint Tenant, which we could prepare for her here at SLP at no cost. We alerted Ellen to the error and offered to contact the title company on her behalf to have them correct their error and re-record a corrected deed so she could have clear title to the house without an expensive probate action.

Based upon the information we supplied to Ellen, she felt comfortable enough to immediately contact the title company herself and stated the facts that SLP had uncovered for her as well as demanded they fix their potentially costly error. The title company did promptly correct and re-record her deed to reflect Joint Tenancy and SLP proceeded to complete her necessary documents. Ellen was extremely grateful that the error was caught by our office and able to be rectified at no cost to her, prior to it being a crisis.

Elder Abuse/Exploitation

*Susan L. *, a frail, eighty-seven-year-old, blind woman had been the victim of physical and verbal abuse, isolation, and financial exploitation by a caregiver and agent under a financial power of attorney. The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division, Adult Protective Services, referred her to the Southern Nevada Senior Law Program (SLP). At the client’s request, SLP immediately revoked the financial power of attorney, requested the police report regarding the abuse, and is obtaining bank statements from the date that the power of attorney was executed. SLP is working to ascertain from bank records the scope of the financial exploitation. SLP is also coordinating with the police to review records and assess the next steps regarding the physical abuse suffered by the client at the hands of the former caregiver. SLP also delivered a cease and desist letter to a neighbor who was very good friends with the abusive caregiver because the neighbor was entering the client’s condominium without permission. The neighbor is part of a network of exploiters of client that are seeking to ingratiate themselves in her life under the guise of “helping a blind woman.” SLP has started the process to remove the exploiters from the client’s life.*

Because the client does not know everything that she signed, SLP requested all documents concerning the client from the attorney who prepared the power of attorney. The attorney refused to provide any documents, so SLP is filing a complaint on behalf of the client with the State Bar of Nevada.

The former caregiver fled leaving the client without anyone to care for her. Since the client does not qualify for Medicaid and currently has no access to her bank accounts to pay for a private caregiver, SLP regularly checks in on the client to make sure she is fed until a new caregiver is in place and is coordinating with APS to facilitate social services.

Consumer Matter/Medicare Debt Collection

*Jennifer T. * is 70-year-old senior whose husband passed away a few years ago. She is surviving on Social Security payments and has Medicare health insurance. It was hard enough to lose her husband, but then*

she was shocked and caught off guard when she received a demand letter in the mail from Medicare, saying that they had paid bills on her deceased husband's behalf that they should not have. The letter stated that as the surviving spouse, she needed to pay Medicare back an amount just over \$18,000, which was impossible. The reason stated was that Medicare had paid medical bills that in their assessment should have instead been paid from a settlement that her deceased husband had received before his death due to an accident at a grocery store. Ms. T. had been trying to explain to Medicare for years that many of the bills they were including in the over \$18,000 amount being demanded were completely unrelated to the accident for which a settlement had been received. However, no progress had been made. Jeff Arlitz, an attorney at the Senior Law Program, listened to the client's explanation of the situation, then reviewed the client's documents and correspondence with Medicare, including the medical bills which Medicare was relying on. The attorney agreed that many of the bills were unrelated to the accident. A demand letter was sent to Medicare with the attorney's reasoning and proof. Ultimately, Medicare agreed with the attorney's reasoning and reduced the amount being demanded to \$670. The client wanted to pay the new lower amount immediately just to have it over with after several years of back and forth with Medicare. However, the attorney informed her that as he was reviewing her documents, he came across an insurance company that could be on the line to pay the any amount owing, and asked her to wait while he investigated. The insurance company had gone out of business, but the replacement company was ultimately located, and a demand letter was sent to them explaining why they should be responsible for the amount, stressing that the matter was urgent as the deadline to pay without penalty was in less than three weeks. The insurance company, in response to the demand letter, sent a check for \$670 to Medicare as payment in full within one day of receiving the demand letter. The client was greatly relieved after years of trying to resolve this matter that not only did she now not owe over \$18,000, but she would not have to pay anything whatsoever to resolve the matter.

VARN

January 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024

Counties	LIL by county	Phone logs by county	Online general	Online dvvap	Pre Screen dvvap	DVVAP cases w/ litigation	RSLP	RSLP Pre screen	RSLP LIL	total
Carson	187	700	7	19	18	2	46	48	33	1060
Churchill	24	39	1	5	5	3	0	0	0	77
Clark	2	170	8	5	0	0	0	12	3	200
Douglas	94	297	6	13	13	4	27	35	23	512
Elko	14	49	2	8	4	2	9	9	4	101
Esmeralda	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Eureka	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Humboldt	11	46	2	3	0	1	0	9	0	72
Lander	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Lincoln	1	5	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	13
Lyon	77	154	3	21	18	0	9	0	17	299
Mineral	5	16	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	30
Nye	4	50	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
unknown	0	0	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
Out of State	6	34	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	54
Pershing	5	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Storey	4	12	0	4	0	0	0	4	2	26
Washoe	8	181	9	8	8	0	0	0	0	214
White Pine	4	9	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	16
	451	1787	88	87	67	20	93	134	86	2813

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

WASHOE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

November 2024

Outreach Events in the Community

The Washoe County Law Library and the Second Judicial District Court attended some outreach events in the community during the reporting period.

Homeless Veteran Stand Down Event

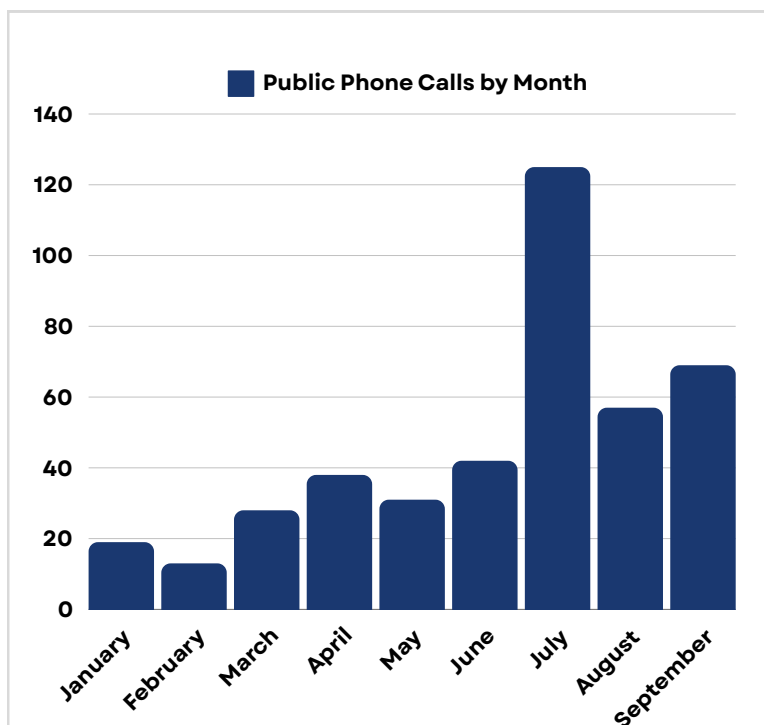
September 27th, 2024

We provided information and resources to **116** homeless veterans in Washoe County.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office Community Resource Fair

October 13th, 2024

We provided information and resources to **143** members of the community.



Public Phone Usage

For years, the Law Library has offered a phone for public use. This important community resource was in jeopardy when Washoe County transitioned to VoIP phones, and removed our landlines. We requested to keep our public phone as it is harder and harder to find payphones. Despite the common assumption that most people have cell phones, we are noticing an increase in usage of our public phone.

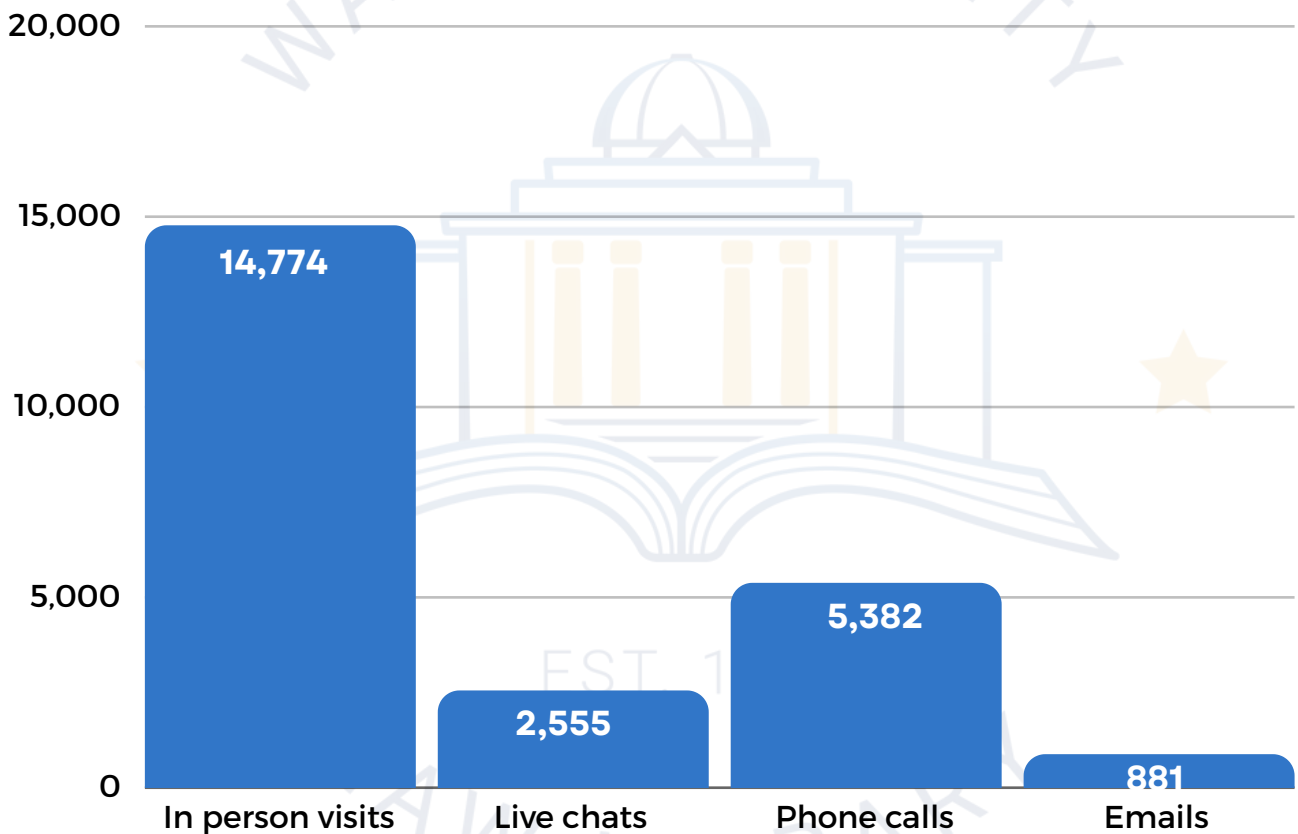
Statistics

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2024

12,320

HOW MANY PEOPLE USED THE LIBRARY?

Total questions answered



1,339

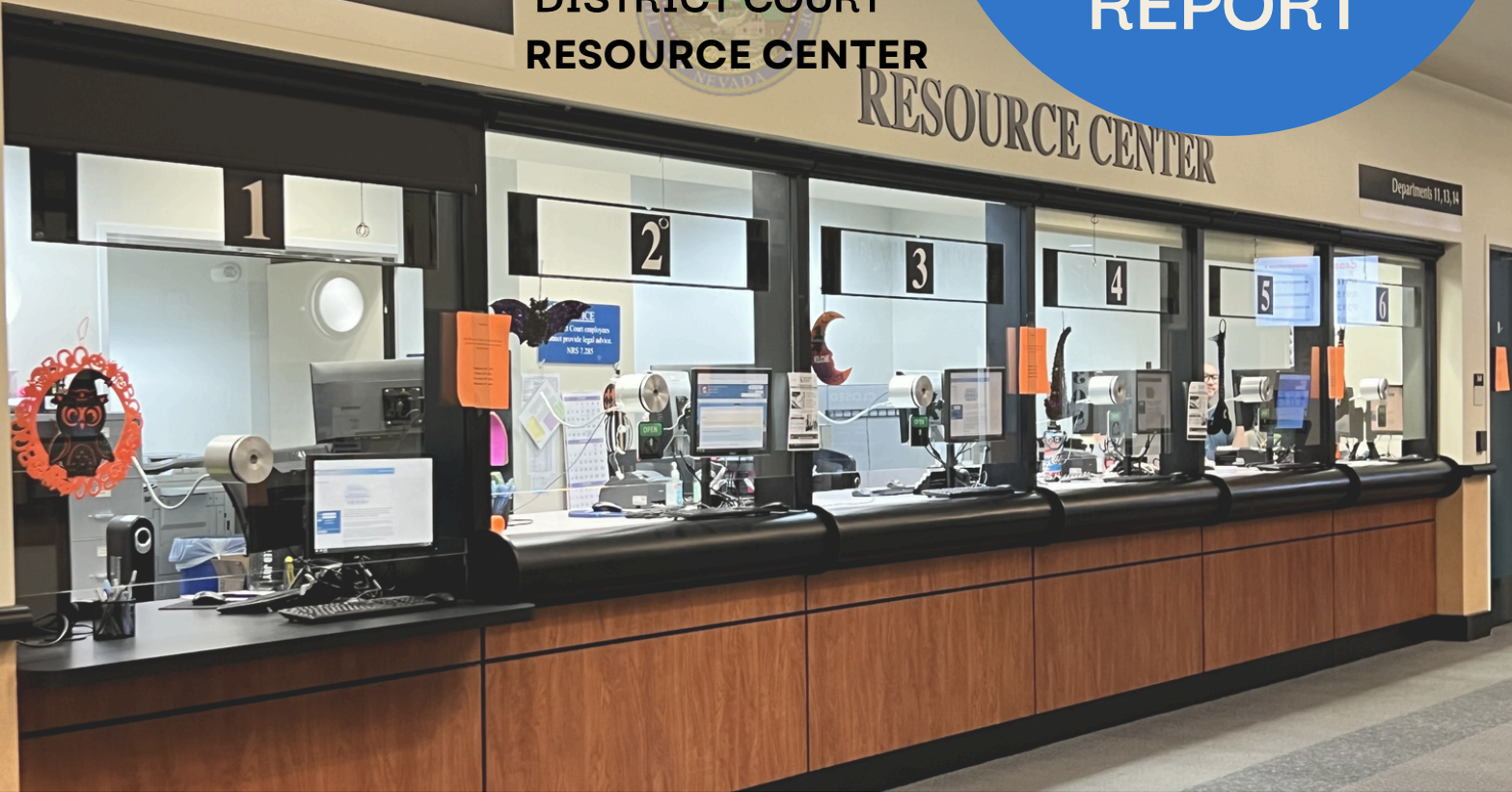
Lawyer in the Library participants

← Departments 2, 5, 12

SECOND JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT
RESOURCE CENTER

ATJC
REPORT

RESOURCE CENTER



The Resource Center received Trial Court Improvement ARPA subgrant funding to lower one of its workstations to make it more accessible to patrons with limited mobility or physical disabilities. We continue to assist self-represented litigants with their court matters by taking payments for fines and fees, administering oaths, issuing Letters and Writs, lodging wills, providing certified copies, setting up electronic filing accounts, assisting patrons with electronic filing, providing court-approved forms and packets, answering general and procedural questions about court processes, and directing patrons to appropriate community resources.

The Resource Center has seen a 17% increase in the number of in-person patrons assisted compared to 2023.

Average wait time per transaction: 3:43 minutes

Average transaction time: 7:06 minutes

January - September 2024:

24,509

In-person visits

16,316

Phone calls

14,381

Emails



ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Triannual Nevada Legal Aid Provider/Pre-ATJC Meeting Recap

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Attendees Present

Barbara Buckley
Alex Cherup
Diane Fearon
Victoria Mendoza
Jonathan Norman
David Spitzer

ATJC Staff Present

Brad Lewis

This was a regularly scheduled triannual provider call.

CLE for Retired Attorneys

Barbara Buckley discovered at a recent retired attorney pro bono engagement event about a new CLE requirement for inactive attorneys. Bryan Scott noted that it was a heavy lift to ask retired attorneys to earn 13 hours of CLE credit just to perform pro bono. Ms. Buckley shared this with Kim Farmer of the State Bar who shared that the MCLE Board updated all limited admissions categories with the goal of creating consistency across categories. This has the effect of increasing CLE requirements even for “retired” or, technically, “inactive” members of the bar if they engage in the practice of law. The sentiment is that to protect the public, any active practitioner of law in Nevada should be up to date with the latest CLE.

Ms. Buckley (and Mr. Scott) explained that this is a hardship for retired attorneys and will have the effect of reducing pro bono service at a time of continuing need. Ms. Farmer agreed to take this to the MCLE Board for further consideration. Alex Cherup said that there probably should be some consideration for the community support provided given the lack of assistance for low-income Nevadans. Ms. Buckley shared an example of in dependency cases. Legal Aid Center offers CLE for taking those cases on a case-by-case basis depending on attorney familiarity with the case work. She said she’d investigate what other states are doing. Diane Fearon shared that if Bryant is having difficulty, then no doubt others are and offered to attend the next MCLE Board meeting with Barbara. Ms. Buckley appreciated the offer but said it was likely unnecessary.

Jonathan Norman noted that he believed that in Hawaii they eliminate the CLE requirement for attorneys at a certain age. Brad explained that, separately, CLE requirements in Nevada were reinstated for attorneys over 70 due to the same desire for all attorneys to have “current” legal education if practicing law.

https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/law_aging/2018-emeritus-probono-practice-rules.pdf



IOLTA

Brad updated the full group that at the interim August IOLTA Rate Review Committee meeting the Committee informally agreed that it was likely that the Nevada IOLTA rates would stay the same at the fall meeting. Mr. Cherup said he was happy to have Umpqua Bank be a sponsor of today's NLS Reno Champions of Justice luncheon and that they are very excited about being back in the IOLTA program.

Legislative Initiatives (Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers)

- Working on
 - Summary evictions – switch the filing order
 - Appropriation for Eviction Diversion
 - Junk fees bill
 - Eviction record-sealing clean-up (auto-sealing prevailing District Court Appeals, and consider more guidance in statute for when sealing is appropriate)
 - Minor guardianship
 - Educating legislators on DETR using AI to write appeals
 - Transparency on Foster children's federal benefits intercepted and used by local child welfare agency
 - [Special Savings Accounts Can Help Child Welfare Agencies Conserve Social Security Benefits - Child Trends – ChildTrends](#)
 - POAs – troubleshooting issues in proposed bill
- Supporting
 - Education support – some state responsibility
 - Consumer Medical Debt Reporting Bill
- Opposing
 - Landlord partial payments

2025 Goals

Brad is in the process of developing ATJC goals for 2025 based on mentions throughout the year plus a survey of national ATJ initiative trends. Brad requested any ideas for potential inclusion be sent to him soon.

Eviction Diversion

Judge Cruz shared diversion numbers for seniors and the disabled. Legal Aid Center can provide training. Christine Miller is the lead.

Section Pro Bono Challenge – Young Lawyers Section

The Young Lawyers Section (YLS) has said they have a goal to win the challenge in 2025. They would like to have at least a part of their service be focused on rural areas. Brad was thinking we should provide some sort of focus for case types so that perhaps we can offer custom CLE options just for YLS as they have more than 600 members.

After discussion the consensus was to offer a “lifespan” focus on kids to seniors. This allows for targeted case options and includes services that all Nevada legal service providers can offer. So, from CAP cases and custody to estate planning and POA documents are some of the case types that can be offered. YLS members can also pick any case type they are interested in from any provider, but this would provide a focus for needed areas and could



include targeted CLE. Brad will work to formulate the rural piece and will set up a meeting in late November to draft a document for provider agreement that can be shared with YLS.

Projects Underway or On Deck

- *Nevada Lawyer* pro bono profiles
- Sealed cases
- Service rule clarification
- Peremptory challenges
- Unbundling pilot
- IOLTA bank visits

Future Meetings

We'll continue the format of this meeting focusing on assuring the advancement of previously identified issues as well as new challenges and opportunities. Part of the call will be led by a legal service provider executive director on a rotating basis. Beginning with the next meeting the order will be Alex, Barbara, Diane, David and Victoria.

If you have ideas for issues/solutions/opportunities/trends to discuss on a future agenda, please share.