

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.

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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

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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