



Compassion for Our Clients and Passion for Their Interests

Friday, June 14, 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 June 2023 Meeting
Northern Nevada Legal Aid July 2023-May 2024 Report*

Honorable Justices and Members of the Commission:

Northern Nevada Legal Aid continues to serve thousands of individuals in our community, conduct important community outreach, and develop new and innovative programs such as our Self-Help Center in partnership with Nevada Legal Services at the Reno Justice Court. This report touches upon all areas we serve but highlights our Senior Law Center and our Self-Help Center recently relocated to the Reno Justice Court.

Case Statistics July 2023 – May 2024

Row Labels	Count of Matter/Case ID#
Adult Guardianship	1256
Child Ad	1212
Consumer-Housing (General)	683
General (Misc)	7
Immigration (General)	568
Intake	9
Jail	1001
MLP	5
Not Entered	2
Pro Bono	43
Self Help	605
SLC (Senior Legal Center)	1026
Victim Advocacy	81
Miscellaneous	386
Grand Total	6884

SENIOR LAW CENTER

By the Numbers

- From July 2023 through May 2024, our office has handled 1,026 unique cases.

In the News & Good Stories

- Channel 2 News featured case handled by Dave Russell, Esq. of NNLA
 - https://www.2news.com/news/contractor-scam-victims-speak-out/video_abcbd9b6-4fba-5e4e-94d4-ea19e05a2427.html

NNLA Preserves Housing Voucher and Defends in Reno Justice Court

NNLA assisted an 81-year-old disabled client on a Section 8 voucher who received a 30-day eviction notice and purportedly owed over \$6,000 in back rent. Our office defended the client at a contested hearing in Reno Justice Court.

Landlord was attempting to illegally charge tenant for rent abated by Reno Housing Authority over 2 years ago due to habitability issues with bed bugs. The landlord's actions violated federal law. The case was dismissed outright.

61-year-old Cancer Survivor seeks help from NNLA to terminate lease

Client sought assistance from NNLA for help terminating her lease due to ongoing hardships with her battle with cancer. Attorney agreed to assist in sending letter to landlord informing them of client rights and requesting a break of lease. Landlord agreed to allow client to break lease without any negative repercussions. Client can now focus on healing as she moves in with family who will care for her during this difficult time.

Outreach and Community Events

- Power of Attorney/Estate Seminars
- Monthly "Ask a Lawyer" events at Washoe County Senior Centers/congregate meal sites in Washoe County
- Senior Fest, OAA Info Fair, Reno Seniors Engaged, Nutrition Fair

RENO JUSTICE COURT SELF HELP CENTER

By the Numbers

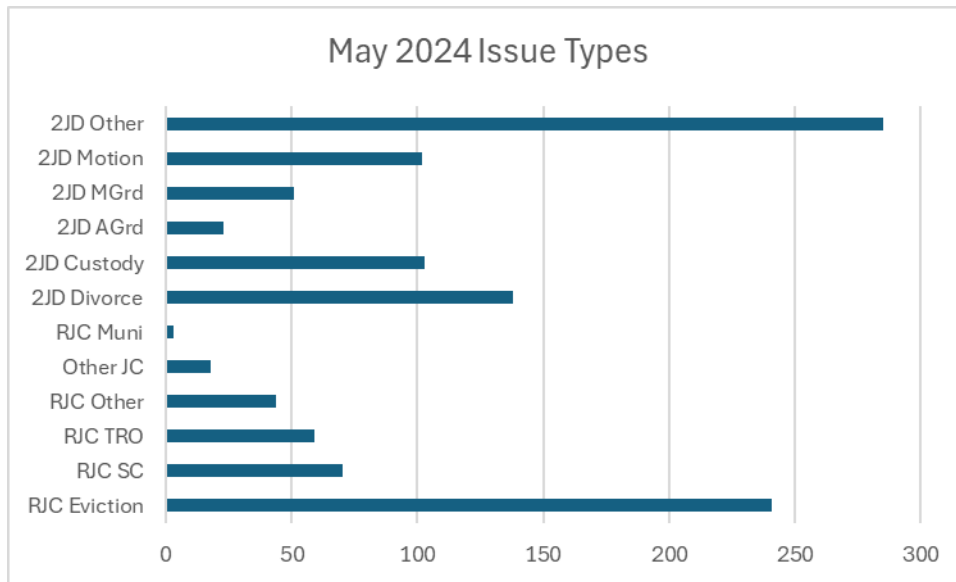
- From December 2023 through May 2024, our center has assisted 5,705 clients.
- Our Self-Help Center assisted 1,138 people for the month of May.
 - 160 of those were older adults over 60.
 - 78 of those were non-English speakers.

In the News

- This Is Reno Interview on Self Help Center Opening and Services
 - <https://thisisreno.com/2024/01/video-self-help-center-at-reno-justice-court-opens-to-the-community/>

Referrals to Nevada Legal Services (NLS) and direct representation

In May 2024, NLS took on 13 clients for further legal services and representation as a direct result of client walk-ins to the Self-Help Center. NLS consulted with another 21 individuals who did not become clients.



“SC” stands for Small Claims Court. “Other JC” refers to Justice Courts in other jurisdictions or states. “RJC Other” refers to any other justice court matter. “2JD Other” refers to any non-family law or guardianship District Court matter.

CONSUMER/HOUSING

638 total clients served including debtor relief (11), collection relief and creditor harassment (37), general consumer and finance issues (128), and federally subsidized housing matters (108).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

75 current DV cases open, with that being 57 unique individuals (several clients have more than one case, like both a TPO and a Divorce). Of these, 38 were new cases opened since July 2023 consisting of 28 individual persons.

Plus 52 DV cases closed (unique count, were open at some point during that time period and closed during that time period, but are not the same people/cases), with that being 46 unique individuals, during that same time period.

Total of 127 cases, 103 unique individuals.

IMMIGRATION

The immigration department handled 568 matters of various types including U-Visas, Green Card and Amnesty applications, and DACA issues. Here are some stories about the clients we served:

1. Client worked at the US Embassy in Kabul. Once the Embassy shut down and the Afghanistan government fell, he and his family (consisting of his pregnant wife and 3 young children) were forced to flee Afghanistan. NNLA has assisted his family in obtaining their green cards by filing their green card applications, attending their interview with them, and addressing any follow up with USCIS.
2. Client’s minor daughter was a victim of rape by her daughter’s then-boyfriend, who was also a minor at the time of the crime. NNLA recently submitted a U-Visa application on behalf of the client as an indirect victim of the crime committed against her daughter. Although U-Visa pending times are long (around 6-7 years at this point), if the

application is granted, she will have access to a work authorization card as well as a path to permanent residency (i.e., green card) after 3 years.

CHILD ADVOCACY

- 830 - Active/ Abuse Neglect Cases (includes Termination of Parental Rights Matters)
- 42 - Active/ Continuing Jurisdiction Cases (AB350)
- 108 - Active/ Minor GAR Cases
- 10 - Active/ Minor GAL Cases (Where we are Guardian Ad Litem only for Child)
- 9 - Active/ Adoption Cases – These are Fee for Service cases where Washoe County provides the client with payment
- 999 total cases currently open

ADULT GUARDIANSHIP

The five attorneys and two support staff in NNLA's Adult Guardianship unit provide full legal service to Protected Persons or Proposed Protected Persons in five counties in Northern Nevada. Of the 1,256 open cases approximately 990 are in Washoe county, with the others being in Lyon, Storey, Douglas, and Carson City. The goal of our representation is to give voice to the desires of the Protected Person client and, in appropriate circumstances, to end guardianship in favor of less restrictive means of protection, thereby fully restoring the individuals' rights.

While COVID still impacts some of our clients, it has not affected the ability of our attorneys to provide effective legal representation. Deaths from it have dropped dramatically and restrictions in facilities are less frequent.

The following represents some of the work our attorneys have done.

1. Client is a 32-year-old resident of a rural county who has been under the guardianship of his parents since turning 18. He has progressed in his ability to care for himself over the years to the point that he finished high school and became employed. While he still lives with his parents, he became more and more capable of handling his affairs on his own. With the assistance of Northern Nevada Legal Aid attorneys and staff, and after many meetings with his reluctant parents, he executed a supported decision-making agreement that provided him with support he needs and the independence from guardianship that he wanted. The guardianship was terminated.
2. Client is a 67-year-old man in Lyon County, who had been in jail for an extended period. A petition for guardianship was filed by the Public Guardian. His Northern Nevada Legal Aid attorney objected to his continued incarceration since his criminal charges had been dismissed. The Court disputed that he was held illegally, but that day, he was released to an appropriate facility for care and stabilization.
3. Client's daughter petitioned to become guardian. The client objected, claiming financial exploitation. NNLA attorneys were able to convince the court to appoint an investigator who substantiated the claims. Another relative was located and agreed, with our client's consent, to become guardian. An action initiated by NNLA under the guardianship statutes was able to recover some of the funds illegally taken.