



Access to Justice Commission June 2023 Meeting

Case Statistics: Case and Client Outcome Report Jan 1-May 15, 2023

Program	Count
Adult Guardianship	789
Child Ad	920
Consumer-Housing (General)	544
General (Misc)	263
Immigration (General)	337
Intake	5
Jail	413
MLP	2
Pro Bono	2
Self Help	691
SLC	696
Victim Advocacy	77
(blank)	9
Grand Total	4748

Closed Reason	Count
Advice & Counsel	485
Limited Action/Brief Service	1435
Client Withdrew/Lost Contact	127
Conflict- Unable to Assist	4
Court Decision	25
Negotiated without Litigation	15
Negotiated with Litigation	11
Administrative Decision	9
Uncontested Court Decision	156
Contested Court Decision	31
Insufficient Merit to Proceed	8
Referral or Information Only	338
Open Cases	2104
Grand Total	4748

Outreach

NNLA conducted outreach at no less than six (6) events in April and May of 2023 and reached over 4,000 people directly. Events attended or hosted included:

- The Biggest Little Easter Egg Hunt & Resource Fair (organized by Washoe CASA & hosted by the Boys & Girls Club)
- Senior Resource Fairs & the Washoe County Senior Fair (organized by Washoe County Senior Coalition & hosted by Washoe County Libraries/Washoe County)

- Pinwheel planting events to raise awareness of Child Abuse Awareness Month (Events vary & include internal events)
- Our internal events (Including our Advanced Care Planning Seminars), and our annual fundraising initiative that was branded as the ‘Voices For Justice’ event for the first time this year
- The UNR Dean’s Future Scholars (DFS) Family Resource Fair at Traner Middle School in Reno, NV

We conducted our 13th annual fundraiser on April 21st, the inaugural ‘Voices For Justice’ luncheon. The luncheon featured a new format that better recognized all that we do at Northern Nevada Legal Aid. The event highlighted the efforts from our Child Advocacy, Immigration, and Adult Guardianship Departments. The event raised nearly \$60,000 in total revenue, and this year we received greater support from local sponsors than in any year prior. Sponsors included:

- First Independent Bank
- Parsons, Behle & Latimer
- Renown Health
- Whittier Trust
- Lewis Roca
- Meadows Bank
- Rimini Street, Inc.
- Gunderson Law Firm
- Holland & Hart
- Urology Nevada
- Washoe County

We continue to seek new events to attend and to increase awareness of our services, and our new name & branding; however, we have plans to attend at least nine (9) more events throughout the year and extending into at least late October. Many of these events, for example Northern Nevada Pride & Juneteenth, are large events and we expect to reach a large volume of Northern Nevadans through our forthcoming outreach.

Program Updates

- NNLA has been conducting clinics for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status clients and is continuing looking at ways to continue to grow this program.
- NNLA continues to operate its Housing Stability Self Help Center located at the Reno Justice Court. Pro se tenants can receive free assistance through the Self-Help Center or a direct referral from the Self-Help Center to a NNLA staff attorney, as appropriate, on legal issues affecting housing stability including, for example, all types of evictions, security deposit returns, and habitability. NNLA has informally expanded its services at the Reno Justice Court to include other legal issues, such as family law and related legal matters. NNLA also continues to operate its general self-help center out of its main office and is looking at ways to expand these services.

- NNLA has hired a new Medical Legal Partnership Attorney. NNLA has been looking at ways to expand its impact at Northern Nevada HOPES--with whom it has a longstanding partnership--as well as looking at ways to expand the MLP Program to include additional community partners.

Case Stories

- Client is a 62 year old woman in a rural county who suffered a severe brain injury after a fall from a horse. After hospitalization in California and therapy back home in Nevada, her sister/Guardian agreed with our NNLA attorney that the time for guardianship had ended. The NNLA attorney arranged for an up-dated capacity evaluation that confirmed that our client had regained sufficient capacity to have the guardianship terminated and all of her rights restore. The Court agreed and the guardianship was terminated.
- Client is a 26 year old male, who despite a traumatic brain injury as a teenager, continued to make dramatic improvements in his abilities. Under the guardianship of his parents and with support from his Northern Nevada Legal Aid attorney he was able to complete therapy and vocational training, get a good job, and along with his lawyer, convince the Court that guardianship was not longer necessary. He has since become a motivational speaker, married a lovely young woman and purchased a home. During the course of his guardianship, NNLA lawyer assisted in accessing therapy and training opportunities that helped him down this path.
- Client came to us in regard to a fraudulent loan application that was completed by a used car salesman. She did not know about the loan until they started calling her and telling her she was behind. The loan was \$1,000. She wanted the loan canceled. NNLA was able to send a demand letter on her behalf and got the loan canceled.
- The client was referred to us by ADSD due to an illegal eviction from a nursing home. NNLA appealed and then we were able to negotiate with the opposing counsel and we got the case dismissed.
- Client and husband are disabled seniors. Client was served a PROQ notice and had a lien put on their mobile home and filed with the Mobile Home Division and client's mortgage company. Client alleged to owe thousands of dollars in arrears. In review of the documents, NNLA attorney saw that lot rent increase provided to client last year only gave them 45 days' notice instead of the statutorily mandated 90 days. The rent increase was illegal. Additionally, Client had continued to pay previous rent amount for the month that landlord had cited in lien. The lien was illegal. NNLA contacted opposing counsel and threatened to file complaints and oppositions if they didn't immediately correct the problem. landlord removed lien, corrected ledger to reflect a zero-dollar balance, and allowed client to continue paying their previous rent amount until April 2023.

- Client is a senior who was forced to break lease by agreement for health agreement. Landlord failed to ever give a security deposit accounting or return prepaid rents. Landlord told client that she broke contract and he didn't need to do anything. On client's behalf we sued landlord in Small Claims Court. He failed to appear and client was awarded a default judgment. NNLA assisted client in putting lien on complex landlord owns for the judgment. He will have to reimburse client if he ever wants to sell property.
- Client is almost 10 years old. She has finally been moved to her identified adoptive home in Tennessee. This has been a long-time coming as Client's plan changed to Termination of Parental Rights almost two (2) years ago. Her staff attorney has had the chance to video visit with Client while she is Tennessee. She had a fun spring break with her new family. They went to "Big Splash" water park. Client has her own room in the home that she helped decorate with dream catchers. She has been able to meet a lot of the extended family via video – so that she is not overwhelmed by too much contact at first. She is looking forward to slowly meeting all of them in person. She enjoys her new school and she has made four new friends there. She has also been taking singing lessons after school, and she is a wonderful singer. Client is looking forward to her adoption finalizing.
- NNLA has seen a large number of unaccompanied minors who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both parents. These children are unable to return home for their safety due to a variety of reasons: victims of child sexual assault by family members, victims of gang violence, threats, and stalking, victims of violence against women in home country, etc. NNLA has created clinics to best serve these clients, during which we explain the Special Immigrant Juvenile status (SIJS) benefit, screen clients for eligibility for SIJS and start the intake process. Thereafter, three of our departments work together to get these children the SIJS benefit.
- Client is one of our SIJS clients. She is 19 years old and came to the United States in 2021. Client had court in March for her guardianship hearing. Client testified at the hearing and expressed her desire for her mother to be appointed as her guardian. The judge granted our request for guardianship. Both Client and her mother expressed their happiness and gratitude after the hearing. The next step will be for the Immigration Unit to assist with the SIJS filing.
- Client's spouse was routinely using threats of suicide and/or self-harm as well as other manipulative behaviors. Parties had separated, but adverse party was able to convince Client to let him move into her new place after 6 months. Adverse party's behavior escalated within a month to a staged suicide attempt while the parties' two young children were in the home (and left unattended). NNLA was able to secure a six-month extended protection order for Client.

- After obtaining and extended protection order for Client, NNLA assisted with visitation and financial issues as well as referring to other resources, and have also begun divorce case to provide Client and children with safety and stability moving forward.