



Senior Legal Hotline/Sacramento Senior Legal Services
515 12th Street ♦ Sacramento, CA 95811
Telephone: (916) 551-2145 ♦ Fax: (916) 551-2197
www.seniorlegalhotline.org



REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS – ATTORNEYS

The Senior Legal Hotline (SLH), a program of Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC), is seeking volunteer attorneys (active or inactive) to advise and assist California seniors by phone. Recently, LSNC also assumed responsibility for senior legal services in Sacramento County. Its work involves more intensive case work and extensive community education activities.

We are a small, friendly office of several attorneys and paralegals (numbers fluctuate with funding), clerical/intake staff and various volunteers and student interns. We provide free legal advice and brief services by phone to people over 60 on all subjects and areas of law.

Volunteers work alongside staff returning calls to clients who have asked us for assistance, offering legal advice regarding the client's problem, sending written information and in some cases, providing additional services such as document review, calls or letters to adversaries, family members or other parties, and some negotiation. SLH also operates an in-house mediation program for cases where that would be appropriate. When a client needs more representation than we are able to provide, we help him or her find the best way to obtain it.

Who are our volunteers and what do they do?

Many volunteers are either recently retired from practice or new attorneys. For retirees or those who have switched careers, it is an opportunity to keep your legal mind sharp on many subjects while contributing the valuable expertise you may have in some areas. You may even be able to maintain active status with exemption from State Bar dues through the bar's Emeritus Program. For new attorneys, hotline work is an excellent opportunity to gain experience actually working with clients and to obtain substantive knowledge about many highly practical areas of law.

We also usually have some paralegal and law student volunteers; even a social work student.

Volunteering at SLH brings eligibility for free and low-cost MCLE training opportunities (exact conditions vary, depending on sponsorship).

Other possible activities include outreach and education work, both inside and outside the office, the latter at presentations to groups of seniors or to staff at other agencies.

Speakers of foreign languages are especially valuable; we do our best to serve older Californians who don't speak English well.

Hours and days:

Hours are extremely flexible from 8:30 to 5; we just need to know at least a day in advance when advocates are coming in order to make phone appointments. We also have evening hours -- to 7:30 p.m., every Thursday, snacks provided -- so people with full-time day jobs can volunteer.

Time commitment is negotiable, though to allow for the best training and orientation, a minimum of 12 hours a month for at least six months is preferred. More is preferable, and consistency is especially important while getting started. Actual hours for our currently active volunteers vary widely.

To sign up or for more information, please call (916) 551-2145.