

Partnerships in Law and Aging Program

A Project of the Borchard Foundation Center on Law and Aging
and the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging
Projects Funded to Date

1999-2000

South Texas Project, San Juan TX

Collaborate with community organizations to provide education and legal services to elderly residents of colonias -- unincorporated villages along the Texas-Mexico border.

Partners: legal services, United Farm Workers, Oficina Legal del Pueblo Unido.

Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Falls Church VA

Create, produce, and print an assisted living guide to provide information on long-term care options to growing elderly community in Northern Virginia.

Partners: area agency on aging, bar association.

Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston MA

Hire bi-lingual elder member of target community to serve as lay advocate, conduct targeted outreach and education to elders isolated by language, cultural or physical barriers.

Partners: Multicultural Coalition on Aging, area agency on aging.

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups Elder Law Center, Madison WI

Make Wisconsin-specific the ABA Recommended Guidelines for State Courts Handling Cases Involving Elder Abuse; conduct regional trainings for judges, law enforcement and others; conduct multi-disciplinary trainings; develop plans and protocols for consumer and professional education, coordination and case-handling.

Partners: Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc., Willimantic CT

Develop and maintain website for comprehensive information on elder law, government programs and sources of legal assistance. Target publicity to senior network, including senior and adult day care centers, libraries, courts, retirement communities and health care providers.

Partners: legal services developer, association of area agencies on aging, bar association.

Center for Advocacy for Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE), Philadelphia PA

Build coalition of aging, advocacy, disability, and legal experts to assist long-term care staff to identify complex ethical issues, provide tools for analysis, and make recommendations to achieve best moral outcome for long-term care residents. Help nursing homes, personal care and assisted living facilities create and train multidisciplinary ethics committees; create a regional volunteer committee to which facilities without committee can turn for assistance.

Partners: bar association, disability advocates, bioethics consultants, legal services.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Kailua-Kona HI

Develop quarterly *pro se* uncontested guardianship clinics, led by attorney and paralegal, to teach caregivers and family members how to fill out, serve, and file forms to become a legal guardian for an incompetent person. Screen Cases and refer out potentially contested cases.

Partners: area agency on aging, caregiver network.

State Bar of Georgia, YLD Elder Law Committee, Marietta GA

Develop elder abuse resource materials for domestic violence shelters, task forces and others working on in domestic violence issues; conduct trainings at conferences and workshops.

Partners: legal services, legal services developer, senior hotline, state office on aging, domestic violence committee.

Orange County Council on Aging, Santa Ana CA

Educate aging services professionals on elder abuse legal issues and resources.

Partners: bar association, fiduciary abuse specialist team, long-term care ombudsman, HICAP.

Minnesota Legal Services Coalition, St. Paul MN

Conduct statewide trainings on advance health care directives under new Minnesota law and on Medicare+Choice, to stimulate pro-bono involvement of lawyers and law students.

Partners: state bar association, Minnesota Justice Foundation, legal services.

Oregon Legal Services, Hillsboro OR

Seek out and inform elderly immigrants about U.S. citizenship requirements and assist with citizenship applications.

Partners: legal services farmworker program, immigrant rights coalition members.

2000-2001

West Virginia Senior Legal Aid, Inc., Morgantown WV

Develop handbook for professionals on legal capacity standards for decisionmaking as they relate to guardianship, conservatorship, durable powers of attorney and advance directives.

Partners: long-term care ombudsman, legal services, Alzheimer's Association.

Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., Baltimore MD

Provide education and training to small assisted living facilities throughout the state on new Maryland assisted living regulations, to promote quality, affordable, facilities.

Partners: law school, assisted living association, nurse training group.

Legal Services of Eastern Oklahoma, Inc., Bartlesville OK

Establish a 2-day a week, five-county Elder Law Hotline; train hotline staff on elder law and intake; develop community education materials in collaboration with bar association.

Partners: bar association.

Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association, Boston MA

Recruit and train pro bono attorneys to provide community legal education and outreach, including written (English and Spanish) consumer informational sessions on legal issues of homeownership, and to handle foreclosure cases for low-income elderly homeowners.

Partners: Nat'l Consumer Law Center, bar association, community groups, housing advocates.

Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, Minneapolis MN

Support volunteer coordinator for senior attorney volunteer project through which retired attorneys do intake, individual casework, and mediation.

Partners: long-term care ombudsman, kinship caregivers association, Youth Law Project

Multi-Cultural Legal Center, Salt Lake City UT

Target outreach on abuse, neglect and exploitation to elders with language and cultural barriers.

Partners: community organizations, adult protective services, legal services.

Susquehanna Legal Services, Williamsport PA

Design and implement elder mediation project in rural community to increase access to dispute resolution options.

Partners: area agency on aging, community center, mediation center.

Senior Citizen Judicare Project, Philadelphia PA

Legal representation, information and referral services to low-income senior Hispanic community at community clinic; education and outreach in Spanish at community, family and senior centers; training on legal issues to professionals working with Hispanic elderly.

Partners: senior centers, bar association.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Hillsboro OR

Create Legal Advice for North Coast Elders (LANCE), a dedicated senior legal phone line for older residents of two rural counties; provide information, advice, brief services including document reviews and letters; offer community education forums, recruit pro bono attorneys.

Partners: area agency on aging, state bar elder law section, state office on aging.

Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake, Salt Lake City UT

Represent alleged incapacitated persons in petitions for appointment of a guardian.

Partners: Office of the Public Guardian, state bar association elder law section.

2001-2002

Riverside County Dept. of Community Action Dispute Resolution Center, Riverside CA

Expand elder awareness of dispute resolution; address disputes involving older persons.

Partners: area agency on aging, senior centers, other entities working with seniors.

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, St. Louis MO

Recruit, train, monitor and support volunteer attorneys and clinical law students to provide legal services to homebound elderly.

Partners: area agency on aging, bar association young lawyers division and elder law committee, legal secretaries association, St. Louis University School of Law Clinic.

Senior Legal Services Project, San Luis Obispo CA

Outreach to Spanish-speaking elders in rural areas of San Luis Obispo County, to alert them to legal issues and resources and provide legal assistance.

Partners: legal services, senior nutrition program, Latino Elders Roundtable.

King County Bar Association, Seattle WA

Provide information and counseling on and drafting of wills for elders of modest means.

Partners: Estate planning attorneys, NAELA, bar associations, community-based organizations, Leave-A-Legacy of Western Washington.

Virginia Elder Rights Coalition, Richmond VA

Develop website and notebook on elder rights issues; train aging and legal professionals and volunteers to present programs using notebook.

Partners: Coalition of 150 affiliates including Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Virginia Poverty Law Center, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance, Manchester NH

Develop web page and legal rights training for service providers and elder rights advocates.

Partners: ServiceLink, a network of community services throughout the state.

Dakota Plains Legal Services, Mission SD

Train (or retrain) community elders in traditional Lakota roles of peacemaking, arbitration, community leadership and mediation, to enable them to resolve disputes in select areas of law; host symposium on traditional adjudication for tribal elders; establish pilot peacemaker “court.”

Partners: Sinte Gleska University Lakota Studies Dept., NAPIL (now Equal Justice Works).

The Urban Justice Center, New York NY

Law students and other interdisciplinary teams provide holistic services to patients of Harlem Hospital geriatric psychiatry outpatient unit on legal issues including Social Security and Medicare, Medicaid, evictions, guardianships, living wills and estate matters.

Partners: Mental Health Project, Columbia Law School, Harlem Hospital.

Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program, Montgomery AL

Develop a model and present community legal education programs; provide follow-up counseling on site to participants with incomes at 125% or below the poverty level.

Partners: state bar, legal services.

Community Legal Aid Services, Akron OH

Produce and disseminate videotape and accompanying written material on predatory lending for use by seniors at home and by lawyers conducting community education.

Partners: area agency on aging; Catholic Charities.

2002-2003

End of Life Partnership of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., Pittsburgh PA

Educate seniors about end of life care options, importance of discussing preferences w/loved ones, and practical aspects of putting one's wishes in documented legalized format

Partners: bar association, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, AARP, Penn State Cooperative Group.

Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc., Lynn MA

Develop guide for use by lay advocates, family members and nursing home administrators on process to secure medicaid reimbursed medical guardianships for Massachusetts Elders

Partners: long-term care ombudsman, Alzheimers Assoc., NAELA, U. Mass. Boston Institute of Gerontology.

Wyoming Legal Services, Lander WY

Coordinate and improve delivery of legal assistance to low-income seniors in guardianships.

Partners: bar association; long-term care ombudsman; Wyoming Guardianship Corp; Wyoming Departments of Health & Family Services.

DSC - Community Mediation Center, Norfolk VA

Build capacity in older adult community to resolve conflicts and develop an intervention strategy to alert seniors to benefits of mediation

Partners: Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia; City of Norfolk Dept. of Human Services; Portsmouth Dept. of Social Services; United Way of South Hampton Roads.

Legal Aid of Arkansas/Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly, Little Rock AR

Develop training and information tool for use by local media, churches and other interested parties to enhance consumer recognition of legal problems and resources.

Partners: area agency on aging; public relations firm; film production company; ASU Dept. of Journalism; pro bono task force; state dept. of human services, state office on aging.

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, San Mateo CA

Recruit private attorneys to provide legal services to grandparents and other relatives over 60 who are raising minor children.

Partners: area agency on aging, Edgewood Center for Children and Families, bar association.

Western Massachusetts Legal Services, Inc., Springfield MA

Produce two town meeting-style forums on elder legal issues filmed live at the Western Massachusetts Public TV station, to be broadcasted and replayed.

Partners: WGBY Public Television, area councils on aging, Attorney General's Elder Protection Project, bar association.

Three T's Inc., Navaho Nation AZ

Collaborate with elders to review and suggest modifications to tribal elder protection laws.

Partners: Navajo Nation Agency on Aging, Navajo Nation Office of the Prosecutor, Navajo Nation Bar Association, senior centers.

Marion-Polk Legal Aid Services, Inc., Salem OR

Recruit volunteer emeritus attorneys to provide community education and legal services to older clients in rural area.

Partners: area agency on aging, bar association.

Senior Legal Hotlines /Legal Services of Northern California, Sacramento CA

Recruit corps of bilingual translators to assist hotline in conducting outreach to seniors who do not speak or understand English; educate translators on elder law issues

Partners: Asian Pacific Community Counseling Center

2003-2004

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc., Hartford CT

Convene quarterly educational seminars on kinship care legal issues in four regions of state for attorneys, social workers, court and state agency personnel; distribute informational materials.

Partners: Kinship Care Legal Issues Task Force; area agencies on aging; Medical Legal Partnership Project of Connecticut Children's Medical Center; legal services, probate court, legal services developer, state bar association.

Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties, Yakima WA

Use facilitative mediation to assist seniors in rural, culturally diverse area with disputes related to landlord/tenant, neighborhood, caregiver, etc.

Partners: area agency on aging family caregiver program and information and assistance.

Midwest Bioethics Center, Kansas City MO

Create a model multidisciplinary ethics committee to address end-of-life issues of seriously ill and dying residents in greater Kansas City area.

Partners: Kansas City Regional Long-Term Care Consortium, LIFE Project of Kansas, Missouri long-term care ombudsman program.

Vermont Bar Association, Montpelier VT

Create booklet and outreach forums to educate professionals, seniors, and other consumers about new state financial abuse and financial-decision-making laws.

Partners: legal services, AARP, Attorney General, state office on aging, Community of Vermont Elders; Alzheimer's Association of Vermont and New Hampshire.

Prairie State Legal Services, Inc., Rockford IL

Develop educational programs for private attorneys to encourage pro bono services, for social service providers to facilitate early identification of legal issues, and for seniors to prevent legal problems caused by high medical costs and predatory lending practices.

Partners: Illinois State Bar Association Elder Law Committee.

Institute on Aging - Consortium for Elder Abuse Prevention, San Francisco CA

Use pro bono attorneys to provide advice and consultant to low-income seniors at three day-long legal clinics; create consumer education materials; train social service professionals.

Partners: bar association volunteer legal services program; area agency on aging, adult protective services, senior information and assistance, Consortium for Elder Abuse Prevention.

SeniorLAW Center, Philadelphia PA

Use technology to match low income elder clients with interested volunteers through listserv postings of pro bono opportunities, on-line volunteer registration and email communications.

Partners: Philadelphia Bar Association Section on Probate and Trust Law Public Service Committee; area law firms.

Needs of the Elderly Committee, Utah State Bar, Salt Lake City UT

Train volunteer lawyers on elder law basics and aging network resources; conduct legal consultations with seniors at senior centers and senior housing units; publish in hard copy and on web an elder law manual for advocates and consumers.

Partners: state bar association, area agency on aging, U. Utah Law School Pro Bono Initiative.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance, Portsmouth NH

Develop training and material specifically targeted to increase statewide awareness about the legal rights of individuals receiving long term care and those making long term care choices.

Partners: state bar association; long-term care ombudsman.

2004-2005

Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, Fair Housing Law Project, San Jose CA

Enhance elder awareness of predatory lending; educate service providers; improve victim access to legal system; and serve as catalyst for resource development and replication in other areas.

Partners: legal services, housing authority, AARP.

Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston MA

Address legal issues of low-income lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) seniors, including resulting from Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling giving same sex couples the right to marry.

Partners: LGBT Aging Project; ETHOS.

Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City, New York NY

In partnership with private elder law firm, develop materials and train case management staff on Medicaid home care eligibility.

Partners: Freedman and Fish, LLP.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Vancouver WA

Spanish-language seminars and written materials on law-related topics for older persons, with seminars broadcast on local cable access television station.

Partners: Spanish language media, aging services, legal services, police, housing authority.

The Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina, Inc., Winston-Salem NC

Partner with local law firm and law school clinic to conduct community education and prepare wills, powers of attorney and advance directives for low-income seniors.

Partners: Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC; legal services, Wake Forest University Elder Law Clinic; area agency on aging; Senior Financial Care; The Community Partnership for the End of Life Care.

Jewish Family and Children’s Services, San Francisco CA

Work with medical, legal and social service providers to develop a bioethics committee and explore alternatives other than guardianship for making medical decisions on behalf of “unbefriended” elders – those with diminished capacity but no family or friends.

Partners: San Francisco Consortium for Elder Abuse Prevention; long-term care ombudsman program; legal services; Laguna Honda Hospital (public nursing home).

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, Oxford MS

Develop manual on coverage, eligibility, application and appeal procedures, for Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, prescription drug, and other health assistance.

Partners: Univ. of Mississippi Civil Legal Clinic; state office on aging; area agency on aging.

Center for Disability and Elder Law, Chicago IL

Implement recommendations of city Anti-Predatory Lending Task Force - to educate potential victims, create a voluntary compliance program for lenders, and develop a citywide policy to combat predatory lending.

Partners: Chicago Department on Aging.

Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Atlanta GA

Expand services of new Mobile Law Unit by recruiting and training Asian Pacific American Bar Association members to provide pro bono outreach and legal services to seniors with language and mobility barriers in appropriate Asian languages.

Partners: Center for Pan Asian Comm. Services; Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Ass’n.

Shreveport Bar Association Pro Bono Project, Shreveport LA

Provide grandparents raising grandchildren with pro bono legal advice/representation in guardianship, custody, adoption and related matters. Draft legal information and resource guide.

Partners: legal services, juvenile court, area agency on aging, state office on aging.