

## MISSION STATEMENT

*VLSP is designed to enhance the income, self-sufficiency and general quality of life of poor and low-income San Francisco residents, by increasing legal and related social services available to this population, and by reaching out to traditionally underserved client groups, primarily through the use of volunteer resources.*

The Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) is a nonprofit project of the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) created to provide free legal and social services to low-income and very low-income San Francisco families and individuals. Recognized as an innovative leader in legal services to the poor, the award-winning VLSP is the largest and only fully comprehensive legal services provider in San Francisco. It is designed to enhance the income, self-sufficiency and general quality of life of poor and low-income San Francisco residents, by increasing legal and related social services and by reaching out to traditionally underserved client groups, primarily through the use of volunteers.

Through VLSP's holistic model, social workers, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, drug and alcohol counselors and others work together with volunteer attorneys to assist individuals and families with the issues underlying their legal case. Our clients include:

- ❖ Battered women and their children
- ❖ Children and adults with disabilities
- ❖ Homeless families and adults
- ❖ People with cancer
- ❖ People with HIV/AIDS
- ❖ People with substance abuse problems
- ❖ People with mental illness
- ❖ Seniors
- ❖ Women on Welfare

VLSP has a variety of programs, offering a wide array of services to low-income clients. Some of these projects include:

▶ **Family Law Project**- provides free legal help with child custody, guardianship, visitation, separations and dissolutions.

▶ **Legal Advice and Referral Clinic (LARC)**- a free monthly clinic at the San Francisco Public Library's Main Branch, assisting clients with all areas of civil law.

▶ **Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP)**- helping clients who are homeless or seriously at risk of homelessness to obtain and remain in housing through access to supportive housing, healthcare, and counseling; removing barriers to employment; and public benefits advocacy. The Homeless Advocacy Project is located in the South of Market area of San Francisco.

▶ **Adult SSI Project** -obtaining benefits that pay for medical care and obtaining benefits for adults with disabilities who may otherwise have little to no income.

▶ **Eviction Prevention Project**- preventing unnecessary and illegal evictions, with an emphasis on serving families with children.

▶ **Consumer Credit and Finance Project** - removing barriers to employment and housing by helping clients to clear up credit problems.

▶ **Community Organizations Representation Project**- providing pro bono business law services to strengthen the nonprofit sector.

To carry out our commitment to holistic advocacy, VLSP recruits both pro-bono attorneys and social service volunteers. Non-attorney volunteers help in various capacities in the following projects:

**Family Law Project**-As Interpreters, Psychotherapists, Substance Abuse Specialists and LCSW's.

**Legal Advice and Referral Clinic (LARC)** - As Social Services Advocates, Intake Workers, and Interpreters.

**Adult SSI Project** – As Psychiatric/Psychological evaluators.

**Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP)**- As Homeless Mentors, Homeless Outreach Workers, Social Services Intake Workers, Interpreters, Social Services Advocates, and Psychotherapists.

**Eviction Prevention Project**- As Interpreters, Psychotherapists and Substance Abuse Specialists.

The above mentioned projects of VLSP are located at 301 Battery Street, with the exception of the Homeless Advocacy Project which is located at 1360 Mission Street and, therefore, easily accessible to its clients and the Courthouse Project (part of the Eviction Prevention Project), which is located at the court.