

PRO BONO, LEGAL AID, AND OTHER TOOLS TO REACH JUSTICE FOR ALL

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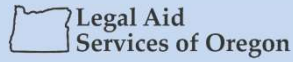
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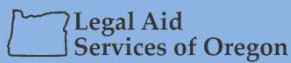
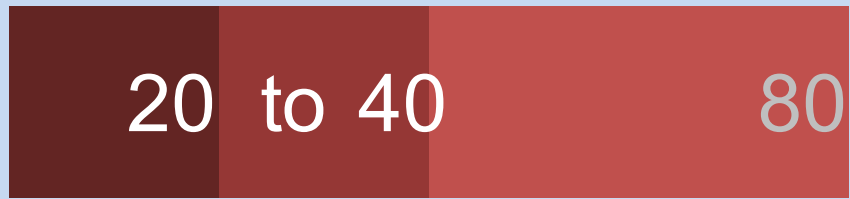
Access to Justice in Oregon Learning the Ropes November 18, 2021



An aspiration:
80 hours of pro bono services.

80

Direct legal service to
people with low incomes:
20 to 40 hours or two cases.



Access to Justice in Oregon
Learning the Ropes
November 18, 2021



Justice Heals



Legal Aid in Oregon

More than
61%
of legal aid's cases
involved safety
and/or shelter



24,000
clients served
directly in 2020



36
counties served
(that's all of them!)



471,000
unique visitors consulted
oregonlawhelp.org
for legal information



110,000
clients served through impact
litigation in 2020



17
communities
with legal aid offices



100s of 1000s
of clients served through administrative advocacy





Barriers to Justice

A 2018 STUDY MEASURING THE CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME OREGONIANS



The Study Findings Are Stark

Legal Problems are Widespread

75% of survey participants live in a household that experienced a legal problem in the previous 12 months.



Legal Problems Multiply

5.4 legal problems were experienced by the typical low-income household in Oregon in the last 12 months.

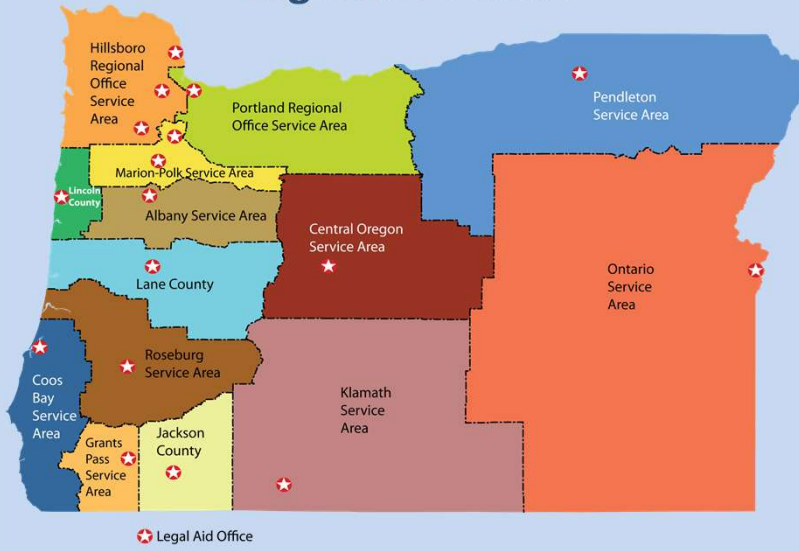
*Fraud of Benefits
Denial of Unfair Eviction
Child Restraint Order
Child Custody*

The Need for Legal Aid Outpaces Resources

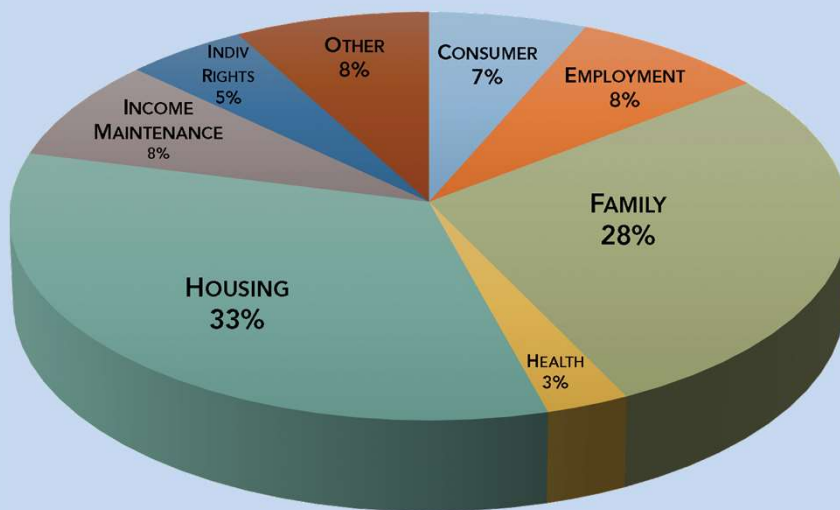
84% of people with a legal problem did not receive legal help of any kind.



Legal Aid Offices



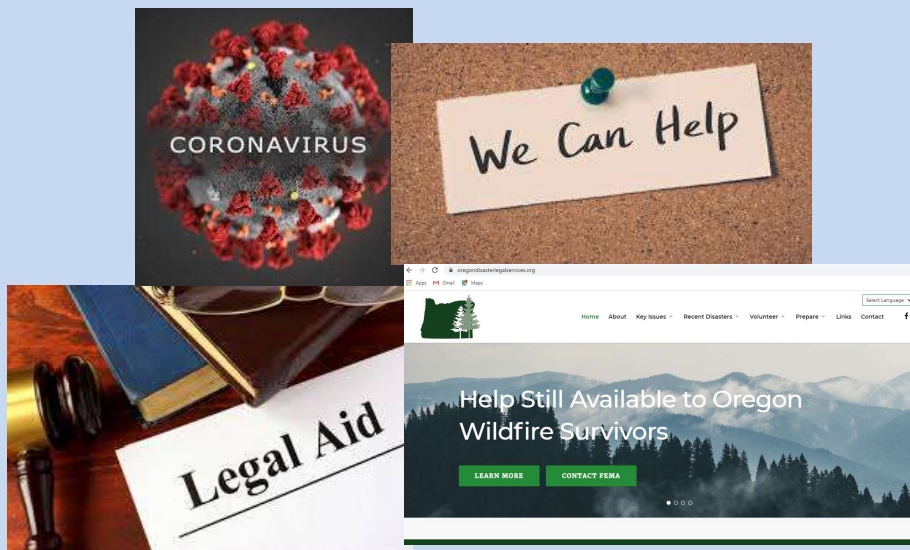
Case Types



2021 Income Eligibility

Number in Family	125% of Federal Poverty Level
1	\$16,100 per year \$1,342 per month
2	\$21,775 per year \$1,815 per month
3	\$27,450 per year \$2,288 per month
4	\$33,125 per year \$2,760 per month

Legal aid's response to the COVID-19 & Wildfire Crises



Volunteering with Legal Aid



Legal Aid Pro Bono Programs

- Bankruptcy Clinic
- Expungement Clinics: Virtual and In-person
- Senior Law Project
- Unemployment Insurance Benefits Panel
- Domestic Violence Project
- Family Law Forms Help
- Housing Notice Clinic
- Statewide Tax Clinic
- ProBono Oregon Case Catalog
- Disaster Assistance Panel
- NAPOLS Project



Domestic Violence Project



Domestic Violence Project

- Pro bono attorneys represent survivors of abuse and stalking in contested restraining order hearings.
- Cases have short timelines, limited issues, & a court appearance.
- Excellent pro bono opportunity for attorneys seeking courtroom experience.
- Volunteers are not expected to assist clients with ongoing family law cases.
- Attorneys sign up in advance to be available to take a case on call or on a certain day.
- Online CLE's, mentorship and extensive materials available.

Housing Notice Clinic



Housing Notice Clinic

- Volunteer Attorneys review tenants' notice of termination to determine whether notice is valid.
- Attorneys advise tenants on validity of the notice, draft demand letters and negotiate settlements when defenses are present.
- Opportunities for continued assistance available.
- Attorneys sign up to receive case referrals via email.
- Online CLE and extensive materials available.
- Excellent opportunity for new attorneys.
- Virtual volunteer opportunity.

Expungement Clinics



Expungement Clinics

- Volunteer attorney reviews client records to assess eligibility for expungement.
- Attorneys complete all necessary paperwork for court when client is eligible.
- Great opportunity for new attorneys and attorneys who cannot commit to long term cases.
- Training and resources available.
- Virtual and In-person volunteer opportunity.
- Attorneys sign up for referral list.

Benefits of Volunteering

- Access to Trainings and Materials
- Attorney-Client Forms
- PLF Insurance Coverage
- Meet OSB Aspirational Standard
- Mentorship and Support
- MCLE Credit



Volunteer Resources

- Trainings and Materials
 - CLE's and Brown Bag Discussions
 - www.oregonadvocates.org
 - www.oregonlawhelp.org
 - www.oregonrentersrights.org
- Interpreter Services
- Mentorship and support from legal aid and private attorneys



Certified Pro Bono:

More can volunteer,
no PLF required.



Save time on CLEs with pro bono:

1 MCLE credit for
2 hours pro bono.

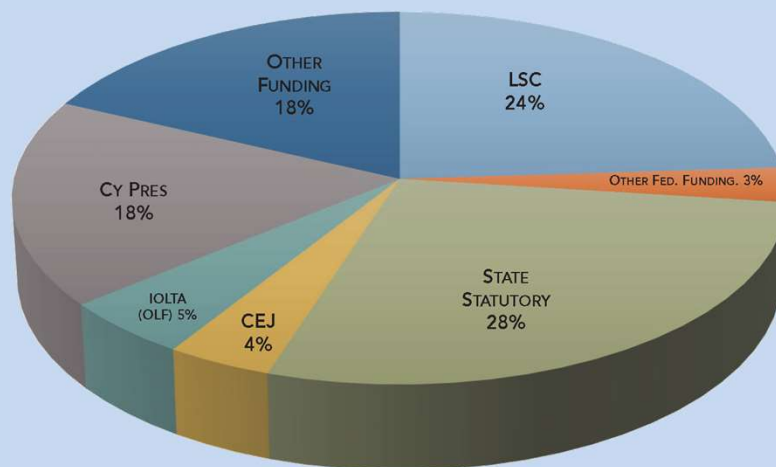


No time?
Give instead.



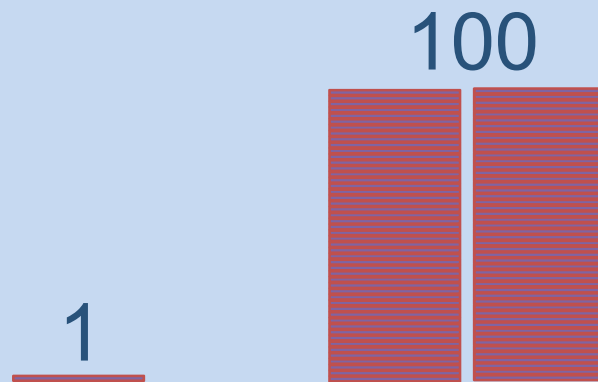
*Also give if
you have time.*

Funding Sources



Bank where it matters:

Oregon Law Foundation
Leadership Banks.



OSB Referral & Information Services (RIS)

Professional Liability Fund
Learning the Ropes
November 2021

RIS Programs

- Lawyer Referral Service
- Modest Means Program
- Lawyer to Lawyer
- Military Assistance Panel
- Problem Solvers
- FEMA Response
- COVID-19 Pro Bono

Modest Means Program

- Reduced hourly rates of \$60, \$80 or \$100 per hour based on client income and assets as measured against the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Family Law, Criminal Defense, Landlord/Tenant.
- 30,000 calls per year with approximately 4,000 referrals made.

Lawyer to Lawyer

- Basic LTL: Phone consultations
- Take Me to Lunch: Mini-mentoring

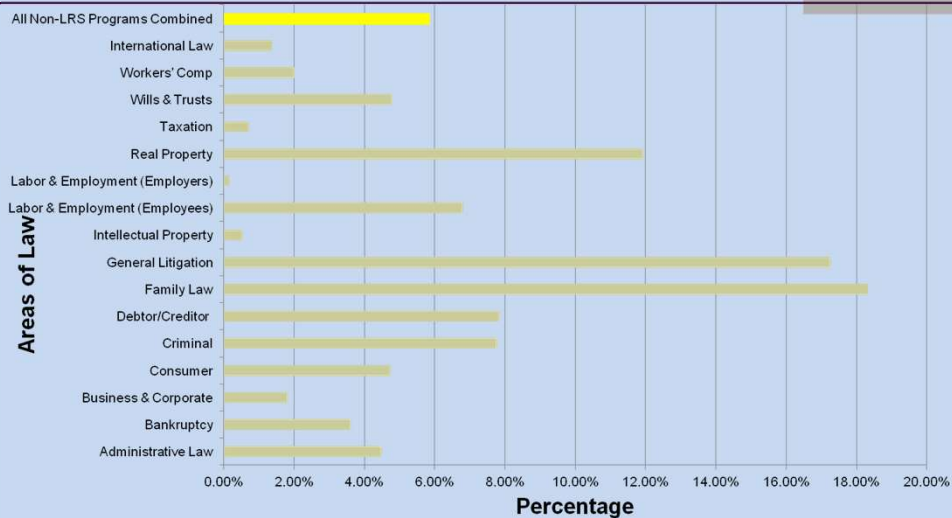
Pro Bono Programs

- Military Assistance Panel
 - 2 hours of pro bono work for active duty military and families
- Problem Solvers
 - Free 30-minute consultations for children aged 13-17
- FEMA
- COVID-19

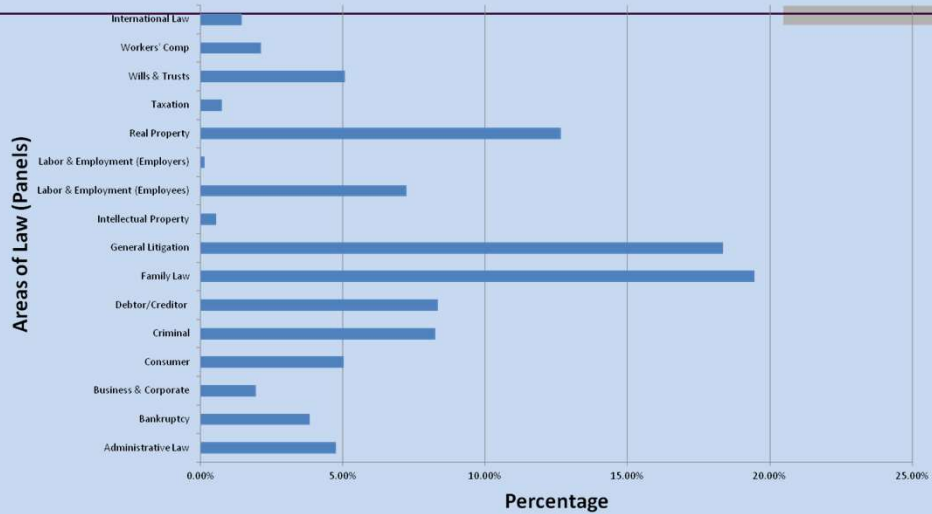
Lawyer Referral Service (LRS)

- Approximately 500 attorney panelists (September 2021)
- Statewide, all areas of law
- Promoted through oregonstatebar.org, summons form, legal system stakeholders, craigslist, Google
- Over 50,000 referrals per year
- 85,000 Calls, 7,000 online referral requests (OLR)

Non-LRS & LRS Referral Comparison



LRS Referrals by Panel



LRS Registration Fees

- Basic Registration:
 - 1-3 yrs = \$50
 - > 3 yrs = \$100
- Additional Panels: \$30 each
- Each additional territory costs \$50. A statewide registration costs \$300.

LRS Percentage Fees

- Monthly Reporting through OSB website.
- 12% remittance on each LRS-referred matter in which the panelist *earns and collects* attorneys' fees.
- The \$35 initial consultation fee, if charged, is not subject to any remittance.
- LRS has generated over \$35 million for panelist attorneys since October of 2012.

How Percentage Fees Work

Percentage	12%
Case No. 1 (\$500 in fees) Remittance to LRS	\$60
Case No. 2 (\$5,000 in fees) Remittance to LRS	\$600

Fees for Other Programs?

- \$0 to register for --
 - Modest Means Program
 - Military Assistance Panel
 - Problem Solvers
 - FEMA
 - COVID-19
 - ...and no geographic/area of law limits!
- \$0 to use –
 - Lawyer to Lawyer or Take Me to Lunch

How to Sign up or Volunteer?

- osbar.org -> [Forms](#)
- Email ris@osbar.org
- Call (503)431-6408
- Any Questions?

Educate Speak Up Fund Legal Aid





CALL TO ACTION

Learn. Speak Act.





- **Give** to the Campaign for Equal Justice. The best way to increase access is to create more legal aid staff attorney positions.
- **Review** your IOLTA account for abandoned client funds. The funds are paid to the Oregon State Bar for appropriation to legal aid through the Oregon State Bar's Legal Services Program.
- **Shop.** Support legal aid when you shop at Fred Meyer by linking your rewards card to CEJ (www.fredmeyer.com) and when you shop at Amazon through Smile.Amazon.Com. It costs you nothing, but supports legal aid.
- **Educate.** Talk about the importance of access to justice. Let people know—civil legal aid is there for those who need help. Host a Campaign for Equal Justice CLE for one hour of Access to Justice credit for attorneys.
- **Endow.** Take simple steps to endow your annual gift to the Campaign's endowment fund.

- **Volunteer** through one of legal aid's many volunteer lawyer projects and clinics, or help the Campaign for Equal Justice raise money for legal aid.
- **Speak Up.** Let state, federal and private funders know that access to justice is important.
- **Learn** how legal aid services are delivered in your community so that you can make appropriate referrals for low-income clients.
- **Move** your IOLTA accounts to a financial institution that is an Oregon Law Foundation Leadership Bank or Credit Union. If all lawyers took this step, funding for legal aid could increase by as much as \$1.7 million—enough to fund two small rural legal aid offices. Contact the OLF at www.oregonlawfoundation.org.
- **Connect.** Ask your bar group to take action to support statewide legal aid programs in Oregon. Contact the CEJ for ideas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED CONTACT THE CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE.

www.cej-oregon.org
503.295.8442







Has your bar or legal professional group signed on to the Call to Action?



We need help from all lawyers, bar and legal professional groups, and the community in providing access to justice for low-income Oregonians. Please join us!

JUSTICE IS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE.

Contact the CEJ at 503-295-8442 to sign on today.












Thank You!

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