

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Over the past decade, our law students have contributed about 60,000 community clinical service hours, with the support of over 3,000 faculty service hours, through the law school's Community Pro Bono Advisory Clinic Programs. Student participation in our community clinics has been a requirement in our academic program for more than 20 years and has expanded significantly over the past ten years. However, as is true in California as a whole, access to justice in our primarily rural communities for under-represented and under-served individuals is a growing concern. To address this need, the law school's community advisory clinics serve as a critical resource that will be expanded through our Golden Anniversary Campaign.

Our Advisory Clinics serve clients with issues/cases concerning:

- **Children's Services:** Providing document preparation for at-risk children who need the protection of legal guardianships.
- **Conservatorships:** Assisting with completion and filing of forms for persons who have been diagnosed with an irreparable developmental delay disability.
- **Domestic Abuse Protection:** Helping those in need of domestic restraining and civil harassment orders, at home or in the workplace.
- **Elder Law:** Handling the wide range of legal matters affecting older or disabled people, including health care, long term care planning, guardianship, retirement, Social Security, and Medicare/Medicaid.
- **Family Law:** Assisting individuals who need advice on the legal process for divorces, child custody, visitation and support, and other family law issues.

- **Housing and Homelessness:** Advising and representing people with housing problems, landlord-tenant issues, subsidized housing, evictions, and conflicts stemming from homelessness.
- **Immigration Law:** Providing DACA students and other residents with updated information about immigration laws, visas, Green Card applications, naturalization and citizenship.
- **Neighbor Disputes:** Assisting neighbors to resolve personal disputes that disrupt peaceful community relations, including issues such as boundary disputes, noise complaints, parking and fencing issues, trash disposal, and pet complaints.
- **Probate:** Helping clients with Statutory and Financial Powers of Attorney and Wills, Advance Health Care Directives, pet Trusts and estate planning goals.
- **Public Benefits:** Representing clients who need help resolving Social Security, consumer law, civil rights, employment, labor, disability, family, health, housing, and debt collection issues.
- **Rural Access to Justice:** Stepping in to help people living in poverty in rural communities, where access to legal information is difficult and there are few attorneys.
- **Small Claims and Self Help:** Providing free advisory services to self-represented litigants preparing for small claims court and assisting successful litigants to enforce collection actions.

We estimate the value of the legal services through our clinics has added up to more than \$3 million over the past decade.