

## California Legal Services Coordinated Efforts re Covid-19

Executive Summary: A number of California legal services organizations and partners are collaborating (under our name, Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative or DLAC) to coordinate efforts in responding to the Covid-19 crisis. We hope that you will join us, or take advantages of the resources we are gathering, and avoid reinventing the wheel.

1. Where to go to find resources:
  - a. The centralized location for California resources is our statewide disaster legal services website: [www.disasterlegalservicesca.org](http://www.disasterlegalservicesca.org).
    - i. Here we have FAQs and announcements and other materials for the public
    - ii. We also have a page at that site for us to share resources with each other, and to contribute materials that should be posted on the page for the public. Go to the bottom of any page, click on “partner portal,” and enter the password “partner”. You can upload documents and links there. Or, you can email them to [tiela@acbanet.org](mailto:tiela@acbanet.org), and we will post them for you. The partner portal also has materials of interest to those of us who are employers.
    - iii. Items of national interest (or that apply to other states) will be posted at the National Disaster Legal Aid website (administered by Pro Bono Net): [www.disasterlegalaid.org](http://www.disasterlegalaid.org).
2. How resources are getting developed
  - a. We are working to gather materials that all of you have developed. Please send on what you have!!! See 1.a.ii to learn how to share materials.
  - b. We are working with the Association of Pro Bono Counsel (APBCo) to coordinate projects that we need. If you have a research project, or a Covid-19 related clinic that needs staffing, please send it to the following people, and it will get shared more widely:  
Greg Shin ([greg.shin@calbar.ca.org](mailto:greg.shin@calbar.ca.org)) AND Rachel Williams ([rachelwilliams@mofo.com](mailto:rachelwilliams@mofo.com)) AND Dorothy Fernandez ([dfernandez@mofo.com](mailto:dfernandez@mofo.com))  
(This applies throughout California.)
  - c. Greg will send out pro bono opportunities to our list of volunteers who signed up through the web (see below). Rachel and Dorothy will coordinate with APBCo firms.
  - d. We have brainstormed, in several groups, a list of issues that we need research or FAQs on. We will be circulating that to you shortly to add to, comment on, and help to prioritize. Then APBCo will coordinate getting to work on the priority areas.
3. How volunteers are being recruited
  - a. Of course, you all have your volunteer networks, and that’s awesome.
  - b. As noted above, APBCo is working on coordinating their firm volunteers to help all of us.
  - c. The State Bar is administering a volunteer sign-up tool, as it has in previous disasters. The link is on the [www.disasterlegalservicesca.org](http://www.disasterlegalservicesca.org) site, and we are pushing it out to

newspapers and social media networks. Greg Shin at the State Bar will assemble those lists and will send out an email, probably weekly, to the list, with the opportunities he learns about. (That's why we asked you to send them to him!) In this way, we hope to share precious pro bono resources among all of us.

- d. The [www.disasterlegalservicesca.org](http://www.disasterlegalservicesca.org) site will soon have a calendar on the volunteer page that shows time-specific things that volunteers could sign up for (a shift on a hotline, for example.)
4. How to get volunteers to help with projects relating to the virus (clinics, research, full scope, policy work, etc.)
  - a. See above. Send your need to the folks above.
5. Trainings on covid-19 specific legal subjects
  - a. We are working to get trainings up as soon as possible. PLI has scheduled a training for April 7 (phone in only, and recorded) that will cover Employment (thanks to Legal Aid at Work) and Housing (thanks to the National Housing Law Project). The training is free: <https://www.pli.edu/programs/Housing-and-Worker-Justice-During-COVID-19?t=live>
  - b. PLI is also working on a health related training. If you have ideas for this or other training, please reach out to me ([tiela@acbanet.org](mailto:tiela@acbanet.org)). Many thanks, too, to the Pro Bono Training Institute and to the Legal Aid Association of California, both of whom are standing ready to run trainings.
6. Resources on service delivery models
  - a. There are a number of resources on how to design remote pro bono systems – you can find them at [www.disasterlegalservicesca.org](http://www.disasterlegalservicesca.org) in the partner portal (bottom of any page, click on “partner portal;” password is “partner.”)
7. Resources for Legal Services orgs as employers
  - a. There are resources for us as legal services employers in the partner portal.
  - b. We will be hosting another webinar on this subject, this one specific to California law. Please look out for the link, and email me if you don't get it.
8. Who is doing all this?
  - a. This work is brought to you by the Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative, a collaborative of legal services organizations, bar associations, and others, statewide. We have been doing disaster planning for several years, and have responded to provide free legal services in several natural disasters. For more information, check out <https://disasterlegalservicesca.org/about-the-team/>.

9. Can I join in this statewide effort? How can I stay in the loop?
- a. We'd love to have you! DLAC holds meetings, currently weekly. To join that call, contact [Greg.shin@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:Greg.shin@calbar.ca.gov). LAAC also coordinates a substantive law call; to join that one, contact [znewman@laaonline.org](mailto:znewman@laaonline.org).
  - b. Stay up on new developments – join the statewide covid-19 listserv! To join, go to <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/covid-19-ca-legal-aid>. There is also a national covid-19 listserv: to join, send a blank email to covid-[19-subscribe@mail.lawhelp.org](mailto:covid-19-subscribe@mail.lawhelp.org). When you join/subscribe, you will receive a confirmation email. *Please note you have to click on the “confirm” link in the email you receive to start sending and receiving list emails.*