

Dear Friends of Community Legal Aid SoCal:

I am heartened to be able to share that in the month since my last communication to you we have fully adapted to the circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and have nimbly shifted our operations to continue to effectively meet the civil legal needs of our client community.

Thanks to our technology team, our Hotline staff have not missed a beat in serving clients on the frontline. Our advocates are conducting telephone appointments, developing virtual clinics, and creating webinars to provide legal information and resources to address both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19-related housing, public benefits, and family law/domestic violence issues. We are also effectively using resources like CourtCall, a system which enables our advocates to remotely make court appearances for their clients. One of our family law attorneys recently made an appearance via CourtCall that resulted in a successful outcome for her client.

The legal staff is constantly monitoring the ever-evolving developments in their practice areas and providing essential information to our clients and to the community. For example, we are now sharing guidance related to Governor Newsom's March 27th executive order halting evictions with all clients who call our Hotline for legal help and are making important resources [available on our website](#) and social media. We are also shifting our resources to respond to the increased need around unemployment issues and focusing on important policy work affecting our community. Please do share any insight you have about emerging needs you are seeing in the community so that we can continue to be as responsive as possible.

Our pro bono team transitioned ten in-house volunteers and interns to work remotely and are currently deploying a virtual clinic model to enable law student and volunteer attorney pro bono support to meet with clients who would normally come to the Clean Slate expungement clinic. They are also developing a pro bono recruitment and response plan to address the changing and emerging needs of the client community in areas such as unemployment insurance benefits and housing.

We are here, we are open, and we will continue to do all we can to help our community members who need help with civil legal issues. Please don't hesitate to include us as a resource in your response communications or refer clients or constituents in need of legal assistance.

Thank you for your partnership and for standing alongside us through these challenging times. Together, we will weather this crisis, continue to serve those who need us, and come out on the other side a stronger, more connected community.

Warmly,
Kate

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