



EASTSIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

www.elap.org

Volunteer Opportunity ELAP Domestic Violence Protect Team Order (DVPO) Team Attorney

Do you want to use your legal expertise to assist survivors of domestic violence? Come help make equal access to justice in our community a reality by volunteering for Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) programs that bring legal services to low income residents of the Eastside and survivors of domestic violence throughout King County. Since 1989, ELAP has provided King County residents with a variety of case services enabling equal access to justice including, one-on-one legal clinics, unbundled legal services, brief services, limited and full legal representation, and community education seminars and workshops.

An ELAP DVPO Team Attorney supports the survivor of domestic violence in making his/her case heard for a just outcome. All ELAP clients are pre-screened for residence, income and civil case matter eligibility by ELAP and if found eligible, matched with an appropriate ELAP program.

Duties:

- Assist survivors of domestic violence in obtaining permanent domestic violence protection orders by appearing in court with the survivor at the DVPO hearing.
- Accept a minimum of two DVPO hearings per year while recognizing it will be on short notice.
- While responsibilities are limited to appearing in court with the survivor to ensure that he/she is able to make their case, ELAP encourages attorney volunteers to provide further pro bono services.
- Follow ELAP Policies and Procedures. Hours: Each hearing may require varied lengths of time. We ask for a minimum one year commitment to ELAP.

Requirements and Training:

- Attorneys must be members of the Washington State Bar Association, or have this requirement waived by the WSBA.
- Must have experience in the courtroom and with domestic violence matters.
- You will receive procedural training and be eligible to participate in a free training provided by ELAP.

Benefits:

Many low income survivors of domestic violence in King County do not have access to legal services. Oftentimes the survivor calls ELAP seeking protection from a violent abuser threatening the survivor and the survivor's children. ELAP usually receives a call after the client has filed a Petition for a DVPO, but prior to their return DVPO hearing. The abuser generally appears in court represented by an experienced attorney while the survivor is seen alone. During such a challenging time, survivors struggle present their case and navigate complex legal rules. Having an attorney beside the survivor considerably impacts their ability to make their story heard whereby allowing for a more just outcome.

Application Process:

To apply please submit a completed ELAP Attorney Volunteer Application Form available our website. We will contact you shortly to discuss your interest in this position. If you have any questions, please contact Esperanza Borboa, ELAP Program Director at esperanza@elap.org or at 425-747-7274 ext. 201. Thank you for your commitment to equal access to justice.