



EASTSIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

www.elap.org

Volunteer Opportunity ELAP Civil Legal Advice Clinic Program

Do you want to use your legal expertise to assist low-income residents who may have no other access to legal services? Come help make equal access to justice in our community a reality by providing pro bono services for the Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP). By doing so, you help bring civil legal services to low income residents of the Eastside and survivors of domestic violence throughout King County. Since 1989, ELAP has provided residents with a variety of civil case services enabling equal access to justice including, one-on-one legal clinics, unbundled legal services, brief services, limited and full representation, and community education seminars and workshops.

Your role as an ELAP Civil Legal Advice Clinic Attorney is to provide legal advice to ELAP clients. All ELAP clients are pre-screened for residence, income and civil case matter eligibility by ELAP and if found eligible, given 30 or 45 minute appointments in an ELAP Clinic or other ELAP program. The day before the clinic date, you will receive the legal clinic schedule, providing the name of the client and a basic description of the legal issue presented. While survivors of domestic violence often present issues falling under the jurisdiction of ELAP Family Law Clinics, all ELAP Civil Legal Advice Clinics serve survivors of domestic violence to assist them through a range of civil legal needs. Telephonic translation services are available for clients whose first language is not English.

Duties:

- Advise up to four clients during a 2 or 2.25 hour ELAP Civil Legal Advice Clinic.
- Review the clinic schedule beforehand for any conflicts of interest.
- Follow all ELAP policies and procedures.
- Option to provide pro bono client Plus Services to follow-up on clinic client case. Client-Plus Services include all services falling short of representation but beyond the scope of the ordained legal clinic appointment time.
- Option for experienced family law attorneys to mentor a new attorney(s) wishing to practice family law or an attorney(s) new to the family law practice area.

Available Clinics:

ELAP has 22 Civil Legal Advice Clinics per month serving various locations on the Eastside. All clinics are organized according to the following subject matter areas:

- Family Law Clinics (includes DV matters)
- General Law Clinics
- Bankruptcy Law Clinics
- Immigration Law Clinics
- Women's Shelter Clinics**

Hours:

Each clinic runs for 2 hours or 2.25 hours depending on the subject matter of the clinic. ELAP General Law and Immigration Law Clinics are 2 hours in duration, and ELAP Family Law and Bankruptcy Law Clinics is a commitment of 2.25 hours. Clinic frequencies vary as some occur

weekly, bi-monthly or monthly. Many attorneys volunteer for one clinic per month. 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.
- You will receive procedural training and be eligible to participate in free CLE trainings provided by ELAP throughout the year.
- Shadow a current volunteer attorney for a period agreed upon by you and the Program Director (usually 1-2 times) before you fly solo.
- Beginning January 2016, up to 24 hours in one of our clinics can qualify for 24 CLE credits through WSBA.

Benefits:

According to the 2015 Civil Legal Needs Study Update, 70% of low income households have at least one legal problem per year and 82% were unable to get help with their legal problem. The clients we serve likely have no other access to legal services. You can help us improve equal access to justice by volunteering as an ELAP Civil Legal Aid Advice Clinic Attorney and provide these much needed services. In addition, volunteering at an ELAP Civil Legal Advice Clinic may qualify you for CLE credit.

Application Process:

To apply please submit a completed ELAP Attorney Volunteer Application Form available on the ELAP 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 esperanza@elap.org or at 425-747-7274 ext. 201. Attorneys who speak a second language strongly encouraged apply. Thank you for your commitment to equal access to justice.

***No prescreening of eligibility for women in shelters and since women sign up to talk with the attorney the same morning/evening of the clinic, the attorney does not receive a schedule prior to the clinic day/time.**

****Only female attorneys may volunteer for ELAP clinics occurring at the homeless shelter.**