



## **HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PRO BONO PROJECT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

<b><u>Mondays</u></b>	<b><u>Bet Tzedek Know Your Rights Workshop (Remote)</u></b>  Bet Tzedek advocates for low-income families and individuals to maintain stable, safe and habitable housing. By providing education, representation, and pathways to legal resources, we help vulnerable tenants remain housed, assist those who are experiencing homelessness, and uphold the belief that housing is a universal right. Every other Monday, we invite pro bono attorneys to conduct Know Your Rights workshops for low-income tenants who are at risk of losing their homes. Presentations will be conducted under close Bet Tzedek staff supervision on a wide array of topics ranging from the timeline of an eviction case, to advice on how to prepare an answer to an Unlawful Detainer (eviction) lawsuit to how to address harassment by a landlord and beyond.  <b>Dates:</b> Every other Monday, beginning November 13 <b>Time:</b> 1-3pm. <b>Contact:</b> Sara Levine, <a href="mailto:slevine@bettzedek.org">slevine@bettzedek.org</a>
<b><u>Tuesdays</u></b>	<b><u>ICLC Tenant Power Toolkit Clinic</u></b>  As pandemic-era eviction protections expire across California and the Los Angeles area, a record number of tenants are being served with eviction notices. Many tenants are unaware of how to respond to these notices, putting them at risk of default judgments and homelessness. The Tenant Power Toolkit, an online self-help resource, is designed to assist tenants in generating answers and initial documents to maintain their defenses and avoid defaults. The Tenant Power Toolkit Clinic is an in-person clinic offering one-on-one assistance to help

tenants generate documents for their case using the Toolkit. Tenants will also receive general guidance on what to expect after filing an answer. Each consultation with a tenant lasts approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. Clinics are held every Tuesday from 4:15 pm to 7:30 pm at the Central Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. All volunteers must complete a 1.5-hour training presentation on the Tenant Power Toolkit and workshop logistics prior to volunteering. Spanish language skills are preferred but not required.

**Dates:** Every Tuesday

**Time:** 4:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Contact:** Vidhya Ragunathan, [vragunathan@innercitylaw.org](mailto:vragunathan@innercitylaw.org)

#### **LAFLA Security Deposit Small Claims Clinic (Remote)**

The Security Deposit Small Claims Clinic assists tenants with completing small claims court documents for return of their security deposit. State law requires landlords to return a tenant's security deposit within 21 days after the tenant moves out. Landlords may retain a tenant's deposit to cover unpaid rental obligations or to pay to repair any damages to the property caused by the tenant. However, many landlords fail to comply with this law and tenants face difficulties navigating the small claims court process to sue for return of their security deposit. Low-income tenants especially rely on timely return of their security deposit to afford the security deposit and move-in costs in their next home. The Security Deposit Small Claims Clinic is held once per month. Generally, clinics are held the third Tuesday of each month.

**Dates:** December 19

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Contact:** [probono@lafla.org](mailto:probono@lafla.org)

#### **NLSLA Tenants' Rights Clinic (Remote)**

In partnership with Community for Economic Survival (CES), NLSLA hosts a general tenants' rights clinic to educate tenants on their rights and answer any questions they may have, regardless of where they are in the eviction process. When it comes to landlord-tenant matters, many tenants simply need to know what their rights are and how to go about enforcing them. Volunteer assistance is needed to determine what issues the tenants have, answer questions, and provide any further assistance necessary to ensure the tenants' rights are protected. The time commitment for the clinics is typically two hours. See dates below.

**Dates:** November 14, 28, 30; future dates TBD.

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:30pm

**Contact:** Henry Mantel, [\(818\) 492-5297](mailto:henrymantel@nsla.org)

<p><b><u>Wednesdays</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>LAFLA Tenant Anti-Harassment Clinic</u></b></p> <p>LAFLA and community partners operate monthly Tenant Empowerment and Anti-Harassment Project (TEAP) legal clinics, which provide anti-harassment assistance to residents of South Los Angeles and the downtown area. The project leverages the City of Los Angeles' June 2021 Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO) to help the most vulnerable tenants with issues related to eviction, homelessness, and displacement through the City's TAHO complaint and investigation process. Volunteer assistance is requested to identify and assess tenant's legal issues, review evidence, provide brief information and advice, and help draft TAHO complaints. A LAFLA Supervisor is present at all clinics to provide substantive support and assist volunteers. Volunteers can access an on-demand training prepare them issues to spot, understand basic landlord tenant laws, and assess cases for referral and possible representation by LAFLA.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> November 29, future dates TBD  <b>Time:</b> 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:probono@lafla.org">probono@lafla.org</a></p> <p><b><u>NLSLA Discovery Response Clinic</u></b></p> <p>As a part of the We Are LA program, NLSLA will be conducting two virtual clinics a month for residents of the city of Los Angeles for tenants facing eviction who need help responding to requests for discovery. Responding to discovery can be the most complex part of litigation and devastating to a tenants' case when done incorrectly or not at all. Housing clinic volunteers will provide legal assistance by answering questions about the discovery process, reviewing requests for discovery with tenants, and providing advice on how to properly respond. An experienced housing attorney will be present at every clinic to provide support to any volunteers if necessary.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> November 29, December 13, then the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month starting in January 2024  <b>Time:</b> 4:00 – 6:00pm  <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:henrymantel@nsla.org">henrymantel@nsla.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>Thursdays</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Bet Tzedek Tenants' Rights Clinic (Remote)</u></b></p> <p>Bet Tzedek hosts a weekly Tenants' Rights Clinic in which vulnerable, low-income residential tenants meet with Bet Tzedek staff attorneys and pro bono attorney volunteers for individual case consultations. Many tenants who come to this clinic face the immediate threat of losing their homes. Others bring affirmative lawsuits to prosecute violations of fair housing laws, fight for habitable conditions, or seek damages for an illegal eviction. Pro bono attorneys interested in joining this important work are invited to join us at our weekly clinic and begin by shadowing an experienced housing attorney. After 3 sessions, pro bono attorneys are encouraged to take an active role conducting the consultation under close Bet Tzedek supervision.</p>

**Dates:** Every Thursday

**Time:** 11:30am-1pm

**Contact:** Please register [here](#). Questions may be directed to Sara Levine, [slevine@bettzedek.org](mailto:slevine@bettzedek.org)

#### **LAFLA Eviction Pre-Trial and Settlement Negotiations Clinic (Remote)**

Each week thousands of tenants receive eviction notices or summons and complaints in Los Angeles County, placing their home and tenancy at risk. Many tenants will not be able to decipher landlord tenant laws or know how to navigate the court eviction process and cannot afford a lawyer to help them. LAFLA is committed to providing free legal assistance to tenants across the greater Los Angeles region and will be hosting weekly remote eviction pre-trial and settlement negotiation clinics every Thursday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Volunteer assistance is requested to interview tenants, review their evidence, identifying eviction defenses, and preparing them to represent themselves during negotiations before or at their hearings. The time commitment for each clinic is approximately 2-3 hours under the guidance of a LAFLA supervisor.

**Dates:** November 16, December 7, 14

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Contact:** [probono@lafla.org](mailto:probono@lafla.org)

## **Fridays**

#### **NLSLA Tenants' Rights Clinic (Remote)**

In partnership with Community for Economic Survival (CES), NLSLA hosts a general tenants' rights clinic to educate tenants on their rights and answer any questions they may have, regardless of where they are in the eviction process. When it comes to landlord-tenant matters, many tenants simply need to know what their rights are and how to go about enforcing them. Volunteer assistance is needed to determine what issues the tenants have, answer questions, and provide any further assistance necessary to ensure the tenants' rights are protected. The time commitment for the clinics is typically two hours. See dates below.

**Dates:** October 19 and 26. Future dates TBD.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Contact:** Henry Mantel, [\(818\) 492-5297](mailto:henrymantel@nsla.org)

#### **Bet Tzedek Discovery Clinic (Remote)**

Bet Tzedek hosts a Discovery Clinic for vulnerable, low-income tenants each month. During this remote clinic opportunity, bono attorney volunteers provide tenants with critical assistance in navigating the discovery process and responding to discovery requests. Pro bono attorneys will have the opportunity

to interview tenants, identify and assess issues under Bet Tzedek staff supervision, and guide tenants through the discovery process as they prepare for their eviction hearings.

**Dates:** Future dates TBD

**Time:** 12-2:30pm

**Contact:** Sara Levine, [slevine@bettzedek.org](mailto:slevine@bettzedek.org).

\* Please note that volunteers may take on pro bono eviction defense cases through all providers: Bet Tzedek, Inner City Law Center, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and Neighborhood Legal Services.