

Engaging with Aging - changing the climate of aging

Southern Nevada

SLP

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SENIOR LAW PROGRAM

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Empowering Seniors

Through no-cost, quality  
legal assistance

Diane Fearon, Executive Director  
William Voy, Director-Pro Bono  
Program

# What is the Southern Nevada Senior Law Program (SLP)?

- ▶ Started in 1978 as Senior Law Project
- ▶ 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Law Firm as of 2012
- ▶ Serving Seniors aged 60 years and older
- ▶ No Income Qualification required
- ▶ Immigration Status is not checked
- ▶ Funded by Grants and Generous Donations

# What is the SLP staffing model?

- ▶ Executive Director
- ▶ Supervising Attorney
- ▶ Director Pro Bono Program
- ▶ Senior Staff Attorney (2)
- ▶ Staff Attorneys (3)
- ▶ Paralegals (4)
- ▶ Pro Bono Coordinator/Legal Assistant (1)
- ▶ Intake Specialists (2)
- ▶ Administrative Manager
- ▶ Development & Community Outreach Manager

## Our Vision

Empowering seniors through no-cost, quality legal services.

## Our Mission

Ensure access to justice for seniors with the greatest economic and social needs.

## Our Values

Integrity

Respect

Compassion

Excellence

Diversity

## Who does SLP serve?

- ▶ Average age - 73 years old
- ▶ Average income - just \$25,133 annually
- ▶ White                      57%
- ▶ Black                      22%
- ▶ *Hispanic*                11%
- ▶ Asian                      8%
- ▶ Disabled                37%

## In 2023 SLP...

- ▶ Helped 2500 at-risk older adults with direct legal services.
- ▶ SLP services like the Health Care POA, which eliminate unwanted medical treatment, save \$18 million annually. (Nevada Access to Justice Commission)
- ▶ Provided educational outreach to another 2000 seniors via presentations/information distribution at senior centers, senior communities, and community events.
- ▶ Launched the Hispanic Senior Outreach Initiative. ***Spanish-speaking pro bono attorneys are invaluable to this vulnerable population.***

# What does SLP do?

- ▶ **General Estate Planning**
- ▶ **Emergency Estate Planning**
- ▶ **Guardianship Counseling**
- ▶ **Elder Abuse and Exploitation**
- ▶ **Judicial Name Changes**
- ▶ **Assistance with Legal Options related to debts**

# Cassandra, 82-year-old, widow

- ▶ Senior center community partner referred to SLP
- ▶ Nephew using fraudulent POA to access bank accounts, other financial resources
- ▶ Nephew also manipulated her medications leaving her afraid to take necessary meds, with threat of placing her in a mental facility
- ▶ SLP immediately created Revocation of POA Finance and Health Care documents and provided multiple copies with clear instructions for contacting banks, Medicare, and pertinent agencies to notify them to flag her records for suspicious activity. Coordinated with senior center Executive Director to implement.
- ▶ SLP wrote legal warning to Nephew to cease and desist immediately or law enforcement would be contacted.



# What does SLP do?

- ▶ **Evictions**
- ▶ **Landlord/Tenant**
- ▶ **Merchant Disputes**
- ▶ **Solar Contracts**
- ▶ **ID Theft/Scams**

## Jared, 66-year-old, health issues

- ▶ Contacted by a relative of recently deceased landlord with demand to move out of his home.
- ▶ Health problems and financial issues made moving feel impossible.
- ▶ SLP advised Jared that he has legal rights as a tenant and that is a requirement of proper notice and due process.
- ▶ SLP also identified the possibility that the relative had not legally acquired ownership of the property and therefore had no legal right to make this demand.
- ▶ Jared was grateful to learn his legal rights and protections and shocked that someone would unlawfully try to coerce him out of his home.

# What does SLP do?

- ▶ Long Term Health Care
- ▶ Social Security
- ▶ Medicare
- ▶ Medicaid
- ▶ Veterans Issues

# Emilio, 71-year-old, widower

- ▶ Dependent on Social Security income, since retiring early to care for his ailing wife who ultimately passed away.
- ▶ Received a letter from Social Security notifying him his benefits were being stopped immediately because he was in prison.
- ▶ Followed by a notification from Medicare Advantage that he was losing his Medicare coverage - because he was in prison, though he was not in prison, had never been in prison, and never even been arrested.
- ▶ SLP research discovered ID Theft by an inmate in a Texas prison.
- ▶ Emilio went to Social Security without result and SLP filed a Request for Reconsideration with documentation included as to the evidence of ID Theft. This information was then presented to Medicare as well.
- ▶ He left the SLP office with relief and comfort of knowing he has someone to turn to for help.

# What does SLP do?

- ▶ **Expand and Strengthen Senior Advocates**
- ▶ **Offer an array of pro bono opportunities**
- ▶ **Health Care POA/Basic Estate Planning Workshops**
- ▶ **Case Referrals**
- ▶ **Community Outreach and Education**

# Medical - Legal Partnership Opportunities

- ▶ 50% of the legal assistance provided to our seniors is Basic Estate Planning, with an emphasis on Health Care Power of Attorney and Advance Directives.
- ▶ SLP welcomes the opportunity to partner with healthcare professionals to increase the completion rate of the Health Care Power of Attorney Health document for the social, emotional, and financial benefit this document represents to individuals, their loved ones, and society.
- ▶ New in 2025 is the availability to request an on-site POA Health Care Seminar for group sizes of between 10 and 36 seniors to learn about the document and have the assistance of an attorney to complete it during the seminar.
- ▶ Guardianship Avoidance and Continuum of Care.

# Future Services – Next Steps

- ▶ On-Site Emergency Health Care Power of Attorney and Advance Directive document preparation.
- ▶ Senior Exploitation intervention service
- ▶ Partner with Aging and Disability Services

# For more information about SLP

[www.snslp.org](http://www.snslp.org)

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