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February 29th, 2024

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Doing what's legally possible to create a just world since 1966.

ADVOCACY TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

For our February 2024 Advocacy Tips, we are proud to provide our [Winter 2024 Newsletter](#) which features not only our popular "advocacy tips" but also Stories of Justice highlighting the successes of our talented staff. Learn about our engagement in the community and read client testimonials thanking us for our work. Additionally, check out our special Pro Bono Attorney page, our "Profiles in Commitment," pictures from the 2023 Gala, and NSLS staff and Advisory Council News. Lastly, find out the details for our 2024 Gala. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter and thanks for reading!



LAW SERVICES NEWS

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER OF NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Victoria A. Osk, Esq.



Nassau Suffolk Law Services (NSLS) continues to make effective strides by providing free legal services to low-income families across Long Island. Through the combined support of our dedicated staff and supporters, we are able to provide various cooperative programs catered to strengthen our ties to the community.

Our mission is to assist underprivileged families in combating issues involving healthcare, homelessness, consumer debt, disability, family affairs, and other eligible civil legal matters. NSLS encourages families to lead productive lives by ensuring that government benefits and emergency services are provided to those who are eligible.

As we continue to evolve our service areas, several units have been transformed. In light of pervasive homelessness on Long Island, the largest development could be seen within the expansion of our housing unit and the adjustments made in handling each case. With the support of New York State grants, we were able to successfully transition from a volunteer model to a staff model, allowing us to hire several new staff attorneys to match the rising demand for our services. Our vision is to establish NSLS as the go-to legal services resource on housing matters and to be present in courts daily. As our eligibility guidelines have expanded, we encourage all tenants to ask for us in court and be evaluated for services.

Our transformative efforts have also progressed within a unique sector of legal services called the Community Legal Help Project (CLHP). Both Nassau and Suffolk counties have added new locations and continue to collaborate with different organizations. Our Suffolk CLHP unit, for example, has welcomed two new locations (Patchogue-Medford Library and Half Hollow Hills Library) and partnered with CARECEN and Tauro Law School to provide free legal information and referrals through brief consultations.

These developments couldn't have been possible without our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and donors. We would like to extend a huge thanks to our Governor and the New York State Legislature for funding our housing units as well as **Assemblywoman Gina L. Siliotti, NY State Senator Monica R. Martinez, and NY State Senator Kevin Thomas** for all efforts towards funding our Veterans' Rights Project.

In the magnificent tapestry of our success, each accomplishment is a vibrant thread woven with purpose. In our ongoing efforts to develop NSLS, we celebrate each endeavor with our annual Spring Gala. Together, we illuminate the path to a safe and just world. We hope to see you there!

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING
OUR 2024 GALA, SEE PAGE 22

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www.nslawservices.org



P.S. Don't forget to check out below for our upcoming March Presentations, Community Legal Help Project Dates, Sealing Clinic, and Education Debt Clinic Dates.

UPCOMING NSLS PRESENTATIONS



LEGAL SUPPORT CENTER FOR ADVOCATES TRAINING:

The Role of An Advocate

**TUESDAY • MARCH 5, 2023
1:00PM-2:00PM**

LSCA Training: The Role of An Advocate

March 5th, 2024 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Join the Legal Support Center for Advocates and Director of Community Relations, Cathy Lucidi, for "The Role of an Advocate." This virtual training will review basic tips on how to help your clients using a holistic approach. Additionally, we will discuss our new CARES Membership and the trainings we plan on offering in person and virtually in 2024.

Please register for this Legal Support Center for Advocates training will be held virtually on March 5th, 2024 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.



LEGAL SUPPORT CENTER FOR ADVOCATES TRAINING:

Insights in Attaining Student Debt Relief

**THURSDAY • MARCH 7, 2024
1:00PM-2:00PM**

LSCA Training: Insights in Attaining Student Debt Relief

March 7th, 2024 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm

The Legal Support Center for Advocates is hosting Nancy Nierman of the Community Service Society's Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) to provide expert guidance and essential insights on attaining student debt relief and navigating repayment. We will review repayment options, with a focus on the new SAVE plan, and provide practical solutions and advice for struggling borrowers. We also offer an overview of federal forgiveness and discharge options and the One-Time Payment Count Adjustment that grants additional credit toward some of those programs.

Please register for this Legal Support Center for Advocates training will be held virtually on March 7th, 2024 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.



LEARN ABOUT

LAW SERVICES

Learn About Law Services: Civil Rights Project and Mental Health Law Project

March 15th, 2024 from 1:30pm to 2:00pm

Please join us for our series "Learn About Law Services" on March 15th, 2024 from 1:30 to 2:00 pm where we will highlight and discuss two of our units: the Civil Rights Project and the Mental Health Law Project. Learn about the types of cases each unit can handle and how to make referrals.

Please register for this virtual presentation.

Did you miss any of our Learn About Law Services Presentations? Feel free to watch them on [our YouTube Channel!](#)

PREVIOUS Legal Support Center for Advocates TRAININGS

On November 13th, 2023, the Legal Support Center presented **"The Strategic Guide to Tackling Student Debt."** NSLS hosted Nancy Nierman of the Community Service Society's Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) to provide expert information on formulating a plan to eliminate your student loans. The training focused on repayment options, such as the new SAVE plan and time-limited relief, which may give you credit toward forgiveness programs. In addition, we offered tips on how to navigate the return to repayment. Don't miss this chance to learn how to take advantage of key opportunities available to you within the federal student loan system. [Please register to view this training.](#)

On September 8th, 2023, the Legal Support Center presented **"Hero's Guide to Strategic Student Loan Repayment."** NSLS hosted Nancy Nierman of the Community Service Society's Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) which provided borrowers with the knowledge and tools needed to conquer their student loans with confidence. We delved into various student loan repayment options, exploring federal forgiveness programs and other relief initiatives available to federal student loan borrowers. Whether you're just starting to repay your loans or seeking ways to optimize your current repayment plan, this webinar is your ultimate guide. [Please register to view this training.](#)

On July 13th, 2023, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented **"A Fresh Start: Getting out of Default on your Student Loans."** Michelle Kimpson, Consumer Debt Unit Law Graduate, discussed how eligible borrowers who failed to make payments on their federal student loans and now are in default can find multiple options to get out of default. [Please register to view this training.](#)

On June 8th, 2023, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented **"Getting Ready to Unpause: Student Loan Updates and Repayment Options."** Consumer Debt Law Project Law Graduate, Michelle Kimpson, discussed the different student loan updates and repayment options that persons with higher education debt can access prior to or once the student loan payments resume this year. [Please register to view training.](#)

On May 25th, 2023, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented **"An Overview of Mental Health Housing on Long Island."** Supervising Attorney, Paola Arango, discussed the different types of mental health housing including an overview of the tenant application process and the rights of tenants in the event of an eviction. [Please register to view the training.](#)

The Legal Support Center for Advocates Training: **"Let's Keep Kids Safe from Bullying: An Overview of the Dignity for All Students Act"** was held virtually on April 27th, 2023. Nassau Suffolk Law Services Supervising Attorney, Lynn Iacona, provided an overview of New York's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) which seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. [Please register to view the training.](#) [The slides can be viewed on our website as well.](#)

The **Social Security Overview: the Application and Appeal Process** LSCA training was held virtually on March 30th, 2023. Nassau Suffolk Law Services Supervising Attorney Sarah Kupferberg reviewed the process for applying for social security disability (SSD and SSI) benefits including the standard and appealing an unfavorable decision. [Please register to view the training.](#)

[Links to all of our prior trainings can be found on our website.](#)

If your organization is interested in having Nassau Suffolk Law Services present on what services we provide or a specific area of law, please contact the Legal Support Center for Advocates at 631-232-2400 extension 3324 (advocates only).

UPCOMING CLINICS, EVENTS, AND LEGAL HELP RESOURCES

Upcoming Community Legal Help Project Dates

During the month of March, our Suffolk Community Legal Help Project will be at the Brentwood Public Library, the Middle Country Public Library (Centereach), the Half Hollow Hills Public Library (Dix Hills), and the Patchogue Library. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To make an appointment or for other legal issues not listed, please call our hotline at [\(631\) 822-3272](tel:6318223272).

NEW! The Community Legal Help Project has expanded into Nassau County! We will be at the Nassau County District Court Resource Center in Hempstead, Hicksville Library, Farmingdale Library, Franklin Square Library, and the Long Beach Library in February. To make an appointment or for other legal issues not listed,

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH A LEGAL PROBLEM?
The Community Legal Help Project will have volunteer attorneys giving free legal information to Suffolk County residents ONLY. Dates and locations listed below.

TUESDAY | MARCH 5 | 2PM-5PM
BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody)
Matrimonial
Criminal
Immigration

THURSDAY | MARCH 7 | 2PM-5PM
MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY AT CENTEREACH
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody)
Matrimonial
Landlord/Tenant (Evictions, Section 8, Town Zoning Violations)
Senior Citizen

TUESDAY | MARCH 12 | 2PM-5PM
BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody)
Matrimonial
Criminal
Immigration
Senior Citizen

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 13 | 3PM-6PM
HALF HOLLOW HILLS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody)
Matrimonial
Criminal

THURSDAY | MARCH 14 | 2PM-5PM
MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY AT CENTEREACH
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody)
Matrimonial
Criminal

TUESDAY | MARCH 19 | 2PM-5PM
BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody, Order of Protection, CPS - Not Fair Hearings or Appeals)
Matrimonial
Criminal (Traffic/Motor Vehicle, Post-conviction)
Bankruptcy

THURSDAY | MARCH 21 | 2PM-5PM
MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY AT CENTEREACH
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody, Order of Protection, CPS - Not Fair Hearings or Appeals)
Matrimonial
Criminal (Traffic/Motor Vehicle, Post-conviction)
Bankruptcy and Mortgage Foreclosure

TUESDAY | MARCH 26 | 2PM-5PM
BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody)
Matrimonial
Criminal

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 27 | 3PM-6PM
HALF HOLLOW HILLS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody)
Matrimonial
Criminal

THURSDAY | MARCH 28 | 3PM-6PM
PATCHOGUE MEDFORD LIBRARY
ATTORNEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO:
Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody)
Matrimonial
Criminal
Immigration

Services provided by:
Assigned Counsel Defender Plan of Suffolk County
Carer
Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County
Nassau Suffolk Law Services
Suffolk County Bar Association
Town Law Center
Volunteer Attorneys

****Assisting residents over the age of 60 years old**
Medicaid Applications, With Living Wills,
Power of Attorney, Healthcare Proxy,
Medicaid Fair Hearing)**

Call (631) 822-3272 for more information or to schedule an appointment with an attorney.

BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
24 Second Ave. Brentwood, NY 11717

MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY AT CENTEREACH
101 Eastwood Blvd Centereach, NY 11709

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD LIBRARY
54-10 13 Main St. Patchogue, NY 11772

HALF HOLLOW HILLS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
55 Vanderbilt Pkwy, Dix Hill, NY 11746

please call the Nassau hotline at [\(516\) 281-7422](tel:5162817422).

Our Community Legal Help Project March Flyers are in English and Spanish and can be found on [our website](#).

The Community Legal Help Project seeks volunteer attorneys with experience in matrimonial, family, and immigration law to give half-hour consultations during our library hours. If you are interested, please [email us](#) today!

Education Debt Clinic

This month our EDCAP (Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program) Staff Attorney will be joining CLHP to provide consultations to Long Islanders with education debt questions. Please see the dates and locations [on our flyer](#).

Education Debt Clinic

Nassau Suffolk Law Services is a participating agency in the EDCAP (Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program) Network. EDCAP helps New Yorkers navigate the student loan system regardless of the type of education debt, federal or private. EDCAP offers free, one-on-one counseling with our student loan experts who only have your best interests at heart. Nassau Suffolk Law Services can also assist when a defendant is being sued on a higher education debt matter. Call to make an appointment for a half-hour consultation today! **Accommodations can be made for those unable to attend the March clinic dates.**

March 5th, 2024
2pm to 5pm
Brentwood Public Library

March 7th, 2024
10am to 1pm
Hempstead District Court

March 27th, 2024
1pm to 2pm
Franklin Square Public Library

March 14th, 2024
3pm to 6pm
Middle Country Library in Centereach

March 20th, 2024
1pm to 2:30pm
Hicksville Public Library

Call (516) 292-8100 and ask for the Education Debt Clinic!



NSLS Sealing Clinic

NSLS staff are available to access, review, and verify your RAP sheet (also known as your criminal history record) to see if you are eligible for your criminal records to be sealed and any other re-entry services that will make it easier for you to be employed, find housing and obtain credit. Available for Nassau County residents every 3rd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10am to 12pm or every 3rd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm. Please call (516) 292-8100. Feel free to **download and share the flyer.**

Sealing Clinic

Every 3rd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10am to 12pm

OR

Every 3rd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm

LIMITED SPACE!
Call (516) 292-8100 to reserve a 15-minute session.

📍 One Hellen Keller Way
Hempstead, NY 11550

NSLS staff are available to access, review, and verify your RAP sheet (also known as your criminal history record) to see if you are eligible for your criminal records to be sealed and any other re-entry services that will make it easier for you to be employed, find housing and obtain credit.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



VOLUNTEER LAWYERS *make a difference*

A little more about our volunteer needs:

Nassau County

Volunteer Lawyers Project

The Volunteer Lawyers Project is an innovative pro bono program to expand the availability of legal services to Nassau County residents in need. The Project provides an opportunity for attorneys to represent clients and volunteer their time and expertise by providing free legal services. The Volunteer Lawyers Project has a need for pro bono assistance in the areas of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, Divorce, Article 17A Guardianships, Health Care Proxies, Name Changes, Power of Attorney, and Wills. Contact: Reisa Brafman, Esq., [516-292-8100](tel:516-292-8100) ext. 3380, rbrafman@nsls.legal

Bankruptcy Clinics through the Volunteer Lawyers Project

Currently, clinic appointments are one-on-one with attorneys consulting with clients in person, by phone, or virtually. Volunteer attorneys provide guidance to those considering bankruptcy, screening for referral to pro bono attorneys for filing of Chapter 7 petitions. This is a limited engagement, though participating attorneys may also be referred cases.

Contact: Reisa Brafman, Esq., [516-292-8100](tel:516-292-8100) ext. 3380, rbrafman@nsls.legal

Community Legal Help Project

The Community Legal Help Project recently expanded into Nassau County. We are looking for attorneys to provide pro bono half-hour consultations with Nassau County Residents. The areas of law most in need are immigration, family, matrimonial, elder, and bankruptcy.

Contact: Roberta Scoll, Esq., [516-292-8100](tel:516-292-8100) ext. 3115, rscoll@nsls.legal

Suffolk County

Pro Bono Project

The Pro Bono Project is an innovative pro bono program to expand the availability of legal services to Suffolk County residents in need. The Project provides an opportunity for attorneys to represent clients and volunteer their time and expertise by providing free legal services. The Pro Bono Project has a need for pro bono assistance in the areas of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, Divorce, Article 17A Guardianships, Health Care Proxies, Name Changes, Power of Attorneys, and Wills.

Contact: Kiersten Bartolotta, Esq., [631-232-2400](tel:631-232-2400) ext. 3311, kbartolotta@nsls.legal

Community Legal Help Project

The Community Legal Help Project (CLHP) is a partnership of legal providers created by the NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and the Suffolk County Access to Justice Committee. The CLHP's network of non-profit partners and pro bono volunteers currently provides legal information and referrals, and limited-scope representation through a phone line and brief in-person consultations at public libraries. Attorneys with a background in immigration, family, elder and/or matrimonial law are needed to assist the community. Volunteer attorneys can dedicate their time monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or at their leisure.

Contact: Rashika Hettiarachchi, Esq., [631-232-2400](tel:631-232-2400) ext. 3391, rhettiarachchi@nsls.legal

2024 Spring Commitment to Justice Reception



Save the Date

2024 SPRING COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION

Compassion and Justice for All

BARBARA J. MEHRMAN
COMMITMENT TO
JUSTICE HONOREE



Gina Pirozzi
NSLS Advisory Council Member
G. Pirozzi Consulting

**COMMUNITY PARTNER
IN JUSTICE HONOREE**



Theresa Regnante
President & CEO
United Way of Long Island

22
MAY 6:00PM - 10:00PM

WEDNESDAY

COLD SPRING COUNTRY CLUB
22 E. GATE DRIVE, HUNTINGTON, NY 11743

[View Sponsorship and Ticket Information](#)

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR LAW SERVICES



SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR LAW SERVICES

During the month of February, we reach out to all of our supporters in hopes that you will continue to support Law Services, the largest provider of free civil legal assistance to Long Islanders in need. Our Show Your Love campaign aims to raise funds that will directly impact our ability to provide free legal services to low-income individuals and families who are experiencing legal hardships. We firmly believe that everyone deserves a fair chance to protect their rights and secure a stable and promising future for themselves and their loved ones.

By supporting our campaign, the impact you can have on an individual's life is immeasurable. With your generous donation, we will be able to continue offering vital legal services.

[Show Your Love for Law Services](#)

NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES
631 232-2400 | 516 292-8100 | 631 369-1112
www.nslawservices.org

Was this email forwarded to you? Stay up to date all year round by [signing up for our Legal Lessons](#).



Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee | 1757 Veterans Highway, Suite 50, Islandia, NY 11749

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