

## September 30th, 2025







## Where Dignity Meets Justice

# SEPTEMBER ADVOCACY TIPS

We are so excited to share with you our <u>Summer/Fall 2025 Newsletter</u>, highlighting the successes of our staff, volunteer attorneys, and advisory council. Read our advocacy tips and Save the Date for our Commitment to Justice Reception on May 6th, 2025, celebrating 60 years of service! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the successful publication of our newsletter, and thank you for reading! Keep scrolling to download fact sheets, view past Legal Support Center for Advocates' Presentations, and learn about upcoming legal clinics and the Legal Resource Fair in Riverhead.



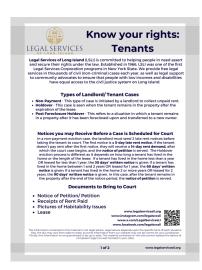






### **Download Our Fact Sheets**

# Know Your Rights Tenant fact sheets in English, Spanish, and Creole.







# Fact Sheets on Illegal Evictions in Suffolk County in English, Spanish, and Creole





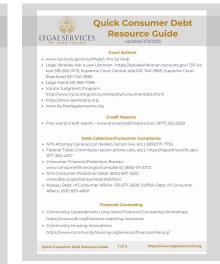








w Your Rights: Fair Hearing Guide 1 of 2 https://www.legalservicesli.org









### Did you miss our past LSCA presentations? Check them out today!

On June 25th, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates and the Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) presented "Big Changes, Big Decisions: Navigating Student Loans in Uncertain Times." We gave important updates on student loans and an overview of repayment options, a review of forgiveness programs (including Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)), and tips for managing delinquent and defaulted debt. View the recording on our YouTube Channel. Slides are available on our website.

On April 24th, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates and the Education Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) presented "Weathering the Storm: Managing Student Loans in Uncertain Times." We covered student loan repayment options and forgiveness, and discharge programs, and updated you on the latest developments affecting the federal student loan system. View the recording on our YouTube Channel. Slides are available on our website.

The Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "Introduction to ICAN and Community-Based Managed Long-Term Care" on Wednesday, April 9th, 2025. Staff Attorney Amanda Davis discussed the introduction to home and community-based long-term care provided by Medicaid that helps elderly and disabled Long Island residents receive home care and other services in their homes, as well as an introduction to the Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) and how they can help. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On March 28th, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates and LSLI Supervising Attorney Sarah Kupferberg presented "The Basics of Applying for SSI for Children." We reviewed the basics of applying for supplemental security income (SSI) for children, including eligibility guidelines, the application process, and how to appeal. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On March 21st, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "New York State Wage and Hour Basics." Supervising Attorney John Batanchiev and Law Graduate Jacob Mortenson reviewed common wage and hour violations for low-income New Yorkers and the steps they can take to protect their rights. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On January 22nd, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates and the Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program presented "Latest Student Loan Updates." The presentation provided an overview of student loan repayment options, forgiveness and discharge programs, and updates on the latest developments affecting the federal student loan system. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On January 17th, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "Rental Arrear Assistance Programs on Long Island." Supervising Attorney John Batanchiev and Law Graduate Jacob Mortenson reviewed rental arrear assistance programs on Long Island, from DSS to non-profit agencies: how to apply, eligibility guidelines, and how to challenge a denial. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On December 6th, 2024, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented, "Emergency Housing Assistance on Long Island." We spoke about the Department of Social Services services and procedures, as well as resources when assisting a client in need of emergency housing assistance. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On Tuesday, November 12th, Legal Services of Long Island's Legal Support Center for Advocates and the Education and Disability Rights Project Attorneys presented "Know Your









Rights: Contemporary Issues in Education." We discussed steps in the special education classification process, independent educational evaluations, and the declassification procedure of a student with an IEP. Further, we discussed the school procedure for disenrolling a student, the rules regarding school attendance in New York, and what to do when your child is being bullied in school. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On October 30th, 2024, Legal Services of Long Island's Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "Knowledge is Power: Legal Steps After a Domestic Violence Incident." Supervising Attorney Larry Tuthill discussed orders of protection, child custody orders, and how to be evaluated for services by the Suffolk County Domestic Violence Project. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

Legal Services of Long Island's Legal Support Center for Advocates presented, "Understanding the 17A Guardianship Option for Parents" on October 29th, 2024. We discussed resources, services, and procedures that can assist your clients considering a 17A guardianship for their intellectually or developmentally disabled child. Also, learn how your clients may be eligible for our upcoming FREE legal clinic which will provide free advice and counsel to individuals considering the 17A Guardianship process. \*Please note that this presentation is appropriate for advocates and professional staff only. This is not a presentation geared towards parents\* Slides can be accessed on our website. View the training on our YouTube Channel.

On October 17th, 2024, Legal Services of Long Island presented "Know Your Rights About Medical Debt." Supervising Attorney Sharon Campo provided medical debt updates and reviewed ways to prevent and combat medical debt. Slides can be accessed on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On September 13th, 2024, The Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "Understanding the Importance of Advanced Care Directives". We discussed basic advanced care directives you or your clients may need while planning for their future. Also, learn how you or your clients may be eligible to attend our upcoming Advance Care Planning Clinic. Slides can be accessed on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

Links to all of our prior trainings can be found on our website.

Did you miss any of our *Programs of Legal Services of Long Island* Presentations? Feel free to watch them on our YouTube Channel!

## **Upcoming Happenings**

#### ATTENTION NASSAU COUNTY **RESIDENTS!** Attend a FREE OPEN HOUSE CLINIC to get your legal questions answered! Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:00-8:00 PM at the Nassau County Bar Association 15th & West Streets, Mineola, NY 11501 Attorneys available to consult on all areas of law: inkruptcy worce and Family Law royment tgage Foreclosure and Landlord Ter r Law (Estate and Surrogate) igration nmigration eneral Legal—A to Z (from Adoption to Zo INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. Attorneys DO NOT provide legal representation. FOR FREE CONSULTATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: 516-747-4070 ext. 1231

Attention Nassau County Residents!

Free Open House Clinic at the Nassau County Bar Association on October 21st from 2pm to 8pm. Meet with attorneys to get your legal questions answered. Make an appointment by calling 516-747-4070 ext. 1231. www.openhousenassaubar.org

Download and Share Flyer in English and Spanish.



PRO BONO MONTH

Legal Resource Fair in Riverhead
10/21! Legal Services of Long Island
and CARECEN will provide valuable
presentations to the community on
contemporary issues in education,
immigration rights, and the rights of
tenants at the Riverhead Free Library
on 10/21/25 from 4pm to 7:30pm. For
more information, visit our website.

Download and Share Flyer.





Upcoming Community Legal Help Project locations, dates, and times for Nassau and Suffolk County can be found on our website. CLHP will be at the Riverhead Library every 4th Wednesday of the month starting January 2025!

## Pro Bono Attorneys Needed

### A little more about our volunteer needs:

### **Nassau County**

### Volunteer Lawyers Project

In partnership with the Nassau County Bar Association, 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 opportunities for attorneys to represent clients and volunteer their time and expertise by providing free legal services. The Volunteer Lawyers Project needs 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 ext. 3380, rbrafman@legalservicesli.org

#### 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 guide 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.

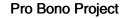
Contact: Reisa Brafman, Esq., 516-292-8100 ext. 3380, rbrafman@legalservicesli.org

#### 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 ext. 3115, rscoll@legalservicesli.org







In partnership with the Suffolk County Bar Association, the Pro Bono Project is an innovative pro bono program that expands the availability of legal services to Suffolk County residents in need. The Project provides opportunities for attorneys to represent clients and volunteer their time and expertise by providing free legal services. The Pro Bono Project needs pro bono assistance in the areas of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, Divorce, Article 17A Guardianships, Foreclosure, Health Care Proxies, Power of Attorneys, and Wills. Contact: Kiersten Bartolotta, Esq., 631-232-2400 ext. 3311, kbartolotta@legalservicesli.org

The Suffolk County Pro Bono Project is now on Paladin! Please take a look at our current volunteer attorney opportunities and connect with us!

### 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 ext. 3391, rhettiarachchi@legalservicesli.org



Legal Services of Long Island is a 501(c)(3) and your donation is 100% tax-deductible. Join us in our mission to provide free, quality civil legal representation to Long Island's neediest residents.

**Contribute Today** 

HOME OUR TEAM TESTIMONIALS LOCATIONS

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND 631 232-2400 | 516 292-8100 | 631 369-1112 www.legalservicesli.org

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