

The purpose of the National Legal Resource Center (NLRC) is to provide the aging and legal networks with easy access to a coordinated national legal assistance support system in order to strengthen legal assistance and elder rights efforts across the country. The ultimate goal is to help create a nationwide system of effective legal assistance and elder rights advocacy services that (1) protects essential rights and benefits of older adults facing challenges to their independence and financial security, and (2) are focused particularly on those in greatest social and economic need who are least able to advocate on their own behalf.

The audience targeted to receive support services through the NLRC includes a broad range of legal, elder rights, and aging services professionals and advocates. These include legal assistance providers, legal assistance developers, long-term care ombudsmen, state units on aging directors, area agency on aging and aging and disability resource center staff, senior legal helplines, and others involved in protecting the rights of older persons.

The NLRC partners can provide assistance on both substantive legal issues and service delivery issues. This includes case consultation and training on complex legal issues and access to a wide range of information resources. Types of pervasive legal issues include preventing the tragic loss of a senior's home through foreclosure, protecting against consumer scams, problems in long-term care facilities, and difficulties in accessing public benefits essential to financial security, independence, and health. The NLRC partners can

also provide technical assistance on the efficient and targeted provision of state-wide legal and elder rights advocacy services.

Contact the NLRC for Assistance. NLRC attorneys and legal program experts stand ready to assist you on a wide range of legal issues that challenge the independence and financial security of your older clients and consumers. Contact the individual NLRC partners directly depending on the type of assistance you need. Specific areas of expertise and contact information for each of the five partners are provided below. **Visit the NLRC Web site at www.NLRC.aoa.gov**

Partners

The **American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging (ABA COLA)** provides expert advice, program and policy development, technical assistance, training, and dissemination of information on a wide range of legal issues impacting older adults. Issues include: health care and financial decision-making; advance directives and planning for incapacity; guardianship law; surrogate decision making; professional ethics; court access; legal issue identification; and the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of vulnerable elders. Informational resources are also available on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, housing, end-of-life care, dispute resolution, and the use of volunteer attorneys. Contact David Godfrey at (202) 662- 8694 or e-mail godfreyd@staff.abanet.org to learn more about how the ABA can help your organization. Visit ABA COLA at: <http://www.abanet.org/aging>

The **Center for Elder Rights Advocacy (CERA)** provides technical assistance to professionals throughout the country operating senior legal helplines. Intensive technical assistance is available in various aspects of helpline legal service delivery, including the development of reporting and data collection systems, case management systems, targeting and outreach strategies, funding strategies, and integration strategies that incorporate helplines into the broader tapestry of legal service delivery. Contact Keith Morris at (866) 949-2372 or kmorris@elderlawofmi.org to learn how CERA can aid your organization. Visit CERA online at: <http://www.ceraresource.org>

The **National Consumer Law Center (NCLC)** provides case consultation and training to legal and aging services advocates across the nation on a wide range of legal issues impacting older consumers. Issues include: predatory and fraudulent mortgage lending practices, credit cards, debt collection, foreclosure prevention and defense, consumer scams, credit reporting, bankruptcy, and home utilities. Contact Odette Williamson at (617) 542-8010 or e-mail owilliamson@nclc.org for case consultation, and Jessica Hiemenz at (617) 542-8010 or e-mail jhiemenz@nclc.org, to learn about training opportunities. Visit NCLC online at: <http://www.consumerlaw.org>

The **National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC)** provides case consultation and training to legal and aging services advocates across the nation on a wide range of legal issues impacting older adults. Those issues include: Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security (SSI/SSDI), the quality

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and delivery of long-term care, and other federal rights impacting the health and financial security of older persons. Contact Gene Coffey at (202) 683-1992 or e-mail gcoffey@nslc.org for case consultation or to learn about training opportunities. Learn more about NSCLC online at: <http://www.nslc.org>

The Center for Social Gerontology (TCSG) provides states and community providers assistance in achieving high-quality, high-impact, and cost-effective legal service delivery systems. Technical assistance is available on a wide variety of legal service delivery issues, including: development of delivery standards; outreach and targeting strategies; assessing legal needs; and developing statewide reporting systems that capture outcomes. TCSG also provides assistance on guardianship and Older Americans Act issues. Contact Penelope Hommel at (734) 665-1126 or e-mail phommel@tcs.org to learn more about how TCSG can assist your organization. Visit TCSG online at <http://www.tcs.org/>

What the NLRC Partners Have to Say

American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging (ABA COLA)

Our Commission is thrilled to join forces with the best and the brightest in the law and aging support network, to build effective links across the law and aging community and help stakeholders get the legal information they need.

—Charlie Sabatino, Director, ABA COLA

Center for Elder Rights Advocacy (CERA)

CERA is honored to be a part of the NLRC. We look forward to assisting with the integration of senior legal helplines into the fabric of law and aging services nationwide.

—Kate White, Exec. Dir., Elder Law of Michigan

National Consumer Law Center (NCLC)

NCLC has developed the Elder Rights Training Project to give advocates the tools and resources they need to assist older Americans facing threats to their housing stability, financial security, or ability to age in place. We look forward to working with all the NLRC partners to provide high-quality, in-person and online trainings, and case consultation on a wide range of issues impacting older consumers.

—Odette Williamson, Staff Attorney, NCLC

National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC)

The NLRC is an exciting new initiative. Integrating the efforts of national legal support programs to enhance legal service delivery to older Americans will help maximize their independence, health, financial security, and ultimate well-being. The NSCLC is thrilled to be part of this effort.

—Paul Nathanson, Executive Director, NSCLC

The Center for Social Gerontology (TCSG)

It is TCSG's firm conviction that the cornerstone to protecting and enhancing rights of vulnerable elders is to have in place all across the nation, high-quality, high-impact, legal services targeted to elders in greatest need. As an NLRC partner, we stand ready to assist states and localities in developing and maintaining such systems.

—Penelope Hommel, Co-Director, TCSG

Learn more at www.NLRC.aoa.gov

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The National Legal Resource Center is a collaborative effort developed by the Administration on Aging

Its partners are:

American Bar Association
Commission on Law and Aging
Center for Elder Rights Advocacy
National Consumer Law Center
National Senior Citizens Law Center
The Center for Social Gerontology

NLRC

Providing Legal Support to the
Aging-Advocacy Network

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