

## Lawyer Referral Programs

### State, County, and City Lawyers Associations

Most states, counties, and cities have lawyer referral programs. These are usually set up through the professional organization for lawyers in an area known as the "bar association". To locate a lawyer referral program, look in the business section of your telephone book's white pages under "Lawyer Referral Services" or "Lawyer Referral and Information Service." If you are unable to find a lawyer referral program, you should contact the American Bar Association which publishes a "Directory of Lawyer Referral Services." (The Directory is available for \$10.00 from the ABA, Dept. 1551, 135 South LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60674-1551).

If you cannot afford the cost of an attorney, you may still be able to find a lawyer to take your case. This is because the law provides that courts can award attorney's fees to people winning pension cases. Also, some bar associations have programs for providing free legal help. These are often called "Volunteer Legal Services" or "Pro Bono" programs.

In recent years, a number of bar associations have developed panels consisting of both pension and non-pension lawyers who are willing to represent individuals in pension matters. You should ask your local lawyer referral or pro bono program whether it has such a panel. The following is a partial list of programs that include pension claims panels.

#### California

Employment Law Office  
8601 S. Broadway Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90003  
(213) 640-3954  
web: [www.lafla.org](http://www.lafla.org) email: [employmentlaw@lafla.org](mailto:employmentlaw@lafla.org)

The Bar Association of San Francisco  
465 California St. Ste. 1100  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415) 989-1616  
web: [www.sfbar.org](http://www.sfbar.org)

#### Georgia

Atlanta Bar Association  
229 Peachtree Street NE  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 521-0777  
web: [www.atlantabar.org](http://www.atlantabar.org) email: [blomas@atlantabar.org](mailto:blomas@atlantabar.org)

DeKalb Volunteer Lawyers Foundation  
315 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 561  
Decatur, GA 30030  
(404) 373-0865

#### Illinois

The Chicago Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service  
321 S. Plymouth Court  
Chicago, IL 60604  
(312) 554-2001  
web: [www.chicagobar.org](http://www.chicagobar.org) email: [info@chicagobar.org](mailto:info@chicagobar.org)

Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services (CARPLS) Legal Assistance Hotline  
17 N. State St. #1850  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 738-9200  
web: [www.carpls.org](http://www.carpls.org) email: [info@carpls.org](mailto:info@carpls.org)

Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation  
1146 Westgate Suite 200  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
(708) 524-2600

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation (CVLS)  
100 LaSalle St. Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 332-1624

#### Massachusetts

National Pension Lawyers Network (NPLN)  
100 Morrissey Boulevard, 100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125  
web: [www.pensionaction.org](http://www.pensionaction.org) email: [npln@umb.edu](mailto:npln@umb.edu)

#### New York

The Association of the Bar of the City of New York  
42 West 44th Street  
New York, NY 10036  
web: [www.abcny.org](http://www.abcny.org)

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program  
(VIP)

42 South 15th Street, 4th floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

web: [www.phillyvip.org](http://www.phillyvip.org)

The Philadelphia Bar Association's Lawyer Referral  
and Information Service (LRIS)

1101 Market St., 11th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19107

(215) 238-6333

web: [www.philabar.org](http://www.philabar.org) email: [Iris@philabar.org](mailto:Iris@philabar.org)

Senior Citizen Judicare Project

1101 Market St., 11th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19107

(215) 238-6390

Washington, DC

Bar Association of the District of Columbia Lawyer  
Referral Service

1225 19th Street, NW Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 296-7845

web: [www.badc.org](http://www.badc.org)

## Legal Service Programs for the Elderly

### **AARP Foundation Litigation**

601 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20049  
(202) 434-2060  
email: [litigation@aarp.org](mailto:litigation@aarp.org)

AARP Foundation Litigation (AFL) is a unit of AARP Foundation Legal Advocacy Group that conducts high-visibility litigation to benefit members of AARP (formerly American Association of Retired Persons) and other people over age 50. Through its thirteen attorneys, AFL engages in law reform litigation on behalf of older persons and prepares amicus ("friend of the court") briefs primarily in the areas of age discrimination; pensions and other employee benefits; consumer fraud including predatory lending; health and long-term care; and access to justice.

## Legal Service Programs for the Poor

### **Legal Services for the Elderly (LSE)**

130 West 42nd Street, 17th Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 391-0120

LSE gives legal assistance on all matters concerning older individuals, including private, state, local and disability pensions, social security, elder law, age discrimination, and disability and medical benefits. LSE primarily acts as a support center to Legal Services attorneys in New York City and in the southern part of New York who represent people who meet income eligibility rules.

### **National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC)**

1101 14th St., NW Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 289-6976  
web: [www.nsclc.org](http://www.nsclc.org) email: [nsclc@nsclc.org](mailto:nsclc@nsclc.org)

NSCLC is a Legal Services Corporation back-up center providing consultation to lawyers representing older workers, retirees and beneficiaries in pension matters, as well as to legal services lawyers and public interest groups. NSCLC cannot provide legal aid to individuals but can refer them to legal services offices or private lawyers.

### **Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation**

235 Peachtree Street N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
web: [www.avlf.org](http://www.avlf.org)

The Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) coordinates the provision of free civil legal services for low-income Fulton County residents by private lawyers. These pro bono services are offered in response to the specific legal needs of individuals. AVLF also organizes volunteer efforts by Atlanta's lawyers to address community-wide legal needs of the poor or underrepresented.

## Technical Legal Assistance

### **Northeast Ohio Legal Services**

11 Federal Plaza Central  
Youngstown, OH 44503  
(330) 744-3196  
email: [hn2333@handsnet.org](mailto:hn2333@handsnet.org)

The Northeast Ohio Legal Services office gives free legal help to individuals who meet the Legal Services Corporation's income eligibility requirements. Free legal assistance is provided to individuals who live or work in Trumbull, Mahoning or Columbiana County. It provides advice and representation on employment related problems including pensions.

### **Access to Justice Foundation**

400 Old Vine Street, Suite 203  
Lexington, KY 40507  
(800) 200-3633

Callers can receive a free telephone consultation with an attorney or paralegal. Callers will receive advice and information and may also receive fact sheets, booklets and/or forms relating to their questions in the mail.

### **Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.**

500 East Lexington Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
web: [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org)

Callers can receive a free telephone consultation with an attorney or paralegal. Callers will receive advice and information and may also receive fact sheets, booklets and/or forms relating to their questions in the mail.

### **Senior Citizens Law Project Advice Line**

1361 Elm Street  
Manchester, NH 03101

Callers can receive a free telephone consultation with an attorney or paralegal. Callers will receive advice and information and may also receive fact sheets, booklets and/or forms relating to their questions in the mail.

### **State Bar of New Mexico Special Projects, Inc.**

P.O. Box 25883  
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Callers can receive a free telephone consultation with an attorney or paralegal. Callers will receive advice and information and may also receive fact sheets, booklets and/or forms relating to their questions in the mail.

### **Legal Services of North Dakota**

P.O. Box 1666  
Minot, ND 58702

Callers can receive a free telephone consultation with an attorney or paralegal. Callers will receive advice and information and may also receive fact sheets, booklets and/or forms relating to their questions in the mail.

**Northwest Justice Project**

401 Second Avenue S, Suite 407

Seattle, WA 98104

(888) 387-7111

web: [www.nwjustice.org](http://www.nwjustice.org) email: [njp@nwjustice.org](mailto:njp@nwjustice.org)

CLEAR offers legal advice and referrals to Washington residents age sixty (60) and older regardless of income.

Information is provided by staff and volunteer attorneys. In addition, CLEAR is able to send informational publications to Washington residents age sixty (60) and older on a variety of topics.

**West Virginia Senior Legal Aid (WVSLA)**

1988 Listravia Ave

Morgantown, WV 26505

(800) 229-5068

web: [www.seniorlegalaid.org](http://www.seniorlegalaid.org)

WVSLA offers legal advice and referrals to West Virginia residents age sixty (60) and older regardless of income.

Information is provided by staff and volunteer attorneys. In addition, WVSLA is able to send informational publications to Washington residents age sixty (60) and older on a variety of topics.

**Wyoming Legal Services**

P.O. Box 1160

Lander, WY 82520

(800) 442-6710

Wyoming Legal Services offers legal advice and referrals to Wyoming residents age sixty (60) and older. Information is provided by staff and volunteer attorneys. Callers will receive advice and information and may also receive fact sheets, booklets and/or forms relating to their questions in the mail.

**The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys**

1604 North Country Club Rd

Tucson, AZ 85716

(520) 881-4005

web: [naela.org](http://naela.org)

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc. is a non-profit association that assists lawyers, bar organizations and others who work with older clients and their families. The Academy provides a resource of information, education, networking and assistance to those who deal with the many specialized issues involved with legal services to the elderly and people with special needs.

**National Veterans Legal Services Program**

2001 S Street, NW, Suite 610

Washington, DC 20009

(202) 265-8305

web: [www.nvlsp.org](http://www.nvlsp.org) email: [nvlsp@nvlsp.org](mailto:nvlsp@nvlsp.org)

NVLSP is a non-profit law firm and national support center in veterans law. NVLSP publishes materials for veterans advocates and self-help guides for individuals. Advocates may write or call for advice. Individuals are requested to write for assistance, information, or referrals.