

## Neighborhood Legal Services Volunteer Opportunities FAQs

### What opportunities can volunteers take advantage of?

Neighborhood Legal Services offers a variety of volunteer opportunities to help NLSLA deliver quality legal services to Los Angeles residents. Our volunteers range from high school students to legal professionals and retired individuals. NLSLA's unique approach to service involves *direct representation, policy advocacy, and impact litigation*, and volunteers have opportunities be a part of all three approaches. Volunteering at NLSLA is divided into three broad categories: Clinics and Centers, Legal Advocacy, and Non-Legal Professional Support.

### What is the difference between Clinics and Centers, Legal Advocacy, and Non-Legal Professional Support?

**Clinics and Centers** are designed to help people access justice by providing legal information to pro se litigants. NLSLA operates the largest network of self-help centers in California, and volunteers are needed to help litigants navigate the often-complicated legal system. Volunteers may be helping community members resolve child custody disputes, seek divorces, halt evictions to avoid being homeless, seek expungements for fresh starts, and receive restraining orders for domestic violence survivors. Volunteers are trained and supervised, and do not need legal education or experience.

**Legal Advocacy** offers a wide-range of volunteer opportunities for attorneys, paralegals, law students, and other professionals with legal backgrounds or education. Volunteers may be able to advocate as a part of our various advocacy groups: administrative law, family law, health, housing, immigrant, workers' rights and employment, and civil rights. Opportunities may include interviewing clients, participating in case reviews, obtaining evidence and arranging records, preparing clients for hearings and trials, writing briefs and other legal memoranda, and representing individuals at administrative hearings.

**Non-Legal Professional Support** is intentionally broad and open-ended as NLSLA recognizes that the Los Angeles community offers a variety of diverse skills. Services may include, but is not limited to, translations, policy research, administrative support, community outreach, fundraising, grant writing, and mental health services. Please specify on your application what skills you would like to contribute to NLSLA.

### Is this a paid opportunity?

Volunteers positions are unpaid. However, NLSLA is able to offer school credit for students.

### What are the qualifications of volunteers?

We have opportunities for all members of the community who are able to communicate effectively and follow directions. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Volunteers who are under 18 years old must have written permission from a parent or guardian. Volunteers who are working with sensitive information are required to complete a live scan (background check).