

BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES

BAY AREA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

PRO BONO CASE SUMMARIES – February, 2019

Thank you for your interest in providing pro bono services. Below are case summaries for clients whose cases are pending referral to a pro bono attorney for a consultation. The pro bono attorney determines whether representation will be provided once the consultation is completed. If you are interested in accepting a pro bono case, please contact our Case Referral Manager, Elva N. Kennis, at ekennis@bals.org.

******When you accept a pro bono case, Stetson Law School or Cooley Law School students are willing and ready to assist you, whether it be with research, writing, drafting or other legal work under your supervision. If you are interested in having a Stetson law student assist you with your pro bono case, please email probono@law.stetson.edu and if you are interested in having a Cooley law student assist you with your pro bono case, please email Laura Bare at barel@cooley.edu. ******

FAMILY LAW

Case # 18-xxx7210 (Divorce)

Our client, a single mother of three, seeks a divorce from her husband of 12 years. The parties have 3 minor children, one of which has special needs. After the OP separated from the client, she was forced to find other housing arrangements. Subsequently, she was defrauded into buying a mobile home which is uninhabitable and in constant need of repairs. Client cannot afford to move and is struggling to take care of the children and support herself. She is seeking assistance with a divorce, child support, alimony and other relief as needed. Volunteer attorney needed to represent the client in the court process.

Case # 18-xxx7686 (Support)

Our, elderly, disabled client seeks assistance with a support matter. Client's husband left her to live with his girlfriend 1 year ago. The parties have twelve adult children, three of which are disabled and live with the client. Her only income is a meager amount of social security that she and one of the adult children receive. The OP's girlfriend is trying to force client out of her home by encouraging OP to let the utilities lapse and has also informed the utility company that there are squatters on the property. Client would like alimony and support for the disabled adult children, if possible. Volunteer attorney needed to assist client with obtaining support unconnected with a dissolution of marriage.

Feb. 22, 2019

GUARDIANSHIP

Case # 19-xxx9859 (Guardian Advocacy)

Our client is seeking Guardian Advocacy of her developmentally disabled adult daughter. The intended ward suffers from Autism and OCD. Client wants to become appointed her guardian advocate. Volunteer attorney is needed to represent the client in the court proceedings.

MISCELLANEOUS

Case # 19-xxx2585 (Advanced Directives)

Our, elderly, disabled client seeks assistance with an Advanced Directives matter. Client's husband left her to live with his girlfriend. Client is currently caring for three of their disabled adult children. Her only income is a meager amount of social security that she and one of the adult children receive. Client would like to have certain protections in place in the event something happens to her. Volunteer attorney needed to consult with the client and determine what Advanced Directives she would benefit from and assist with executing such documents.

Case # 19-xxxx0149 (Contracts)

Our disabled, unemployed client needs assistance with a fraudulent contracts matter. An acquaintance introduced our client to a car salesman when she was living in a homeless shelter. Client was in the process of being awarded back pay for her disability and was looking to buy transportation. The OP offered to sale her a mobile home and car as a packaged deal. After making an oral agreement, the op began picking her up and taking her to the bank so she could make payments to him. Client paid a total of \$9,600 before finally demanding he give her the automobiles as agreed. To date, he has not provided her with either and client would like to recoup the money spent. Client is in need of a consultation to determine her rights and remedies and representation in the process.

Case # 18xxx8743 (Debt Collection)

Our client, a homeless veteran, needs assistance with a Debt collection matter with regard to her previous place of residence. When client wasn't home, her dryer caught on fire causing twenty five thousand (\$25,000) dollars' worth of damages to the apartment. The fire department verified in writing that client was not at fault and listed possible mechanical failure or dryer malfunction as the cause. Despite the confirmation; the complex held client responsible and sent her

a bill for the damages. They advised they did not make an insurance claim and paid for the damages out of pocket. After some time, client discovered the debt was reported to the credit agencies which is now impeding her ability to secure housing; subsequently causing her to have to live in a homeless shelter. Client is in dire need of a consultation with an attorney to determine her rights and remedies and assistance in resolving the matter.

PROBATE

Case # 18-xxx3493 (Probate) (No Place Like Home)

Disabled client seeks help with probate of intestate father's estate so she can get title to the home in which she has resided for over 10 years. Father had 6 children: one whose whereabouts are unknown and 3 of whom are deceased with surviving children. Client's father died in 2018. Client's mother died in 2015. Client has paid property taxes and paid for improvements to the home. Roof damage became worse after Hurricane Irma. Once she gets title she may qualify for local home repair assistance program(s). Client believes her siblings will not contest her petition.

Case # 17-xxx6818 (No Place Like Home-Mobile Home Title)

Spanish-speaking client seeks help with clearing title to mobile home that she purchased in 2017. The seller was not aware that he was not the titled owner to the mobile home. The title to the home was lost years ago. The mobile home is registered to two individuals not known to client. Search for vehicle information indicates 5 outstanding liens that are over 30 years old. Client had hurricane damage and was unable to get FEMA assistance due to lack of title. Volunteer attorney needed to assist with obtaining a declaratory judgment regarding title and removal of the liens.