

The Arizona Legal Center

Gary L. Stuart Legal Triage and Referral Program

The **Arizona Legal Center is a new nonprofit organization** established to provide guidance to consumers who may have legal questions and concerns so they can make informed decisions about how to deal with those issues.

- The flagship project of the Arizona Legal Center is the **Gary L. Stuart Legal Triage and Referral Project (Legal Triage)**.
 - **Legal Triage is an information gathering, review, and consultation system in which individuals and businesses who believe they may have a genuine need for legal representation in a wide variety of legal disciplines** can schedule time with an attorney to have their matter reviewed and vetted for possible claims, defenses, remedies, and identification of resolutions/strategic options followed by appropriate referrals for legal assistance with those matters that are found to be valid and viable.
- Once it has been determined that there is a valid and viable claim that can be addressed through an appropriate referral, an **Arizona Legal Center attorney will provide a direct contact to the person or organization that can help address the issues identified**. Sometimes that will be a referral to a practicing attorney, sometime it will be providing information of community services, sometimes it will be an invitation to attend one of a number of workshops, events, and clinics offered through the Arizona Legal Center that is focused on that particular issue.
- The Arizona Legal Center will **sponsor or host regular events for the community to provide resources, guidance, and information about key legal topics that frequently arise** among the community.
 - Most notably will be regular sessions addressing matters related to Family Law (divorce, custody, child support, parenting time), Immigration, Criminal Law, and Landlord Tenant issues, among others. Very frequently legal issues can be remedied quickly with the appropriate resources and guidance on how to proceed; so, when individual representation by an attorney is either not an option or not necessary, support for those advocating for themselves is a very effective resource.

We expect that **Family Law, Criminal Law, Probate, Guardianships, Immigration, Civil Law, and Employment matters will be the most frequent areas where consumers seek assistance**, but the ACL also expects the following areas of law to arise as areas of triage on a regular basis:

- 1) **Administrative law** – EEOC claims, Social Security claims, Department of Developmental Disability services claims, and licensing issues

- 2) **Appellate law** – review previously adjudicated cases for possible appeal
- 3) **Civil law** – including landlord/tenant, small claims, and contract disputes
- 4) **Criminal law** – including DUI, drug possession, petty theft, property crimes, misdemeanor assault, domestic violence, shoplifting, disorderly conduct, probation violations
- 5) **Employment law** – including wrongful termination, discrimination, and wage and hour disputes
- 6) **Estate planning** – including wills, trusts, powers of attorney and healthcare directives
- 7) **Family law** – divorce, child custody, parenting time, child support, modifications to orders, orders of protection.
- 8) **Juvenile law** – dependency, delinquency, adoptions, guardianships and conservatorships
- 9) **Immigration law** – including obtaining/maintain visas, public health, and education
- 10) **Healthcare and Mental Health law** – including HIPAA issues, discrimination, access to public benefits, fair housing, involuntary holds for mental health evaluation, criminal charges vs treatment options, access to services

The **ALC highly encourages volunteer lawyers to participate in the Gary L. Stuart Legal Triage and Referral Program**. Volunteer commitments can be tailored to fit the schedule and interests of volunteers; consultations with clients can be conducted in-person, on the telephone, or via Skype; and volunteer lawyers can select the area(s) of law in which they are interested in providing consultations. Those participating can expect to:

- 1) Attend a one-time orientation training
- 2) Sign up for times to be available that fit each individual volunteer's schedule with no minimum amount of commitment required beyond the orientation and one consultation
- 3) Advise clients on possible claims, defenses, remedies and options for resolution
- 4) Have law students available to conduct research and follow up as necessary to support the volunteer attorneys' work with scheduled consultations
- 5) Be eligible to receive referrals from the ALC for cases that are evaluated by ALC volunteer lawyers
- 6) Become familiar with private as well as city, county, state and non-profit services available to assist clients

For more information on opportunities to become involved, contact Victoria Ames at 480-965-6631 or Victoria.Ames@asu.edu