



Advance Justice and Empower People

2115 KERN STREET, STE. 1 | FRESNO, CA 93721

CCLS NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

“I do believe we can end poverty in America.” R. Sargent Shriver, 1965

Central California Legal Services continues to aim for the goal Sargent Shriver set when he founded America’s legal services program in 1967. CCLS has now launched a legal needs assessment to refine the organization’s vision and direction to better meet the most urgent civil legal needs of low-income residents throughout its service area. Leading this effort is Dr. Tania Pacheco-Werner of Fresno State’s Central Valley Health Policy Institute (CVHPI), who describes the results as a “compass to navigate where CCLS should move with its services.”

In launching Legal Services for the Poor, Sargent Shriver intended lawyers to use “the law to help poor and disadvantaged communities ... to attack and overcome the social and economic effects of poverty.” Dr. Pacheco-Werner points to housing policies and health benefits as examples of important progress in public policies since the mid-60s. However, much of what was true more than fifty years ago remains true today: even in areas where there have been advances, implementation has often fallen short of truly helping low-income families find paths out of poverty.

(Continues page 2)

She was in an abusive relationship that disrupted her and her children’s lives. They continue to enjoy a stable life, free from the violence.

Virginia, thank you for honoring us with your skills and talents. We greatly appreciate and value your dedication to our clients.

For information on our services, call our Legal Advice Line: (800) 675-8001

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WELCOME HOME TO OUR NEW LITIGATION DIRECTOR



Emilia Morris recently joined Central California Legal Services as the new Legal Director. A Central Valley native who grew up in Southeast Fresno, Emilia decided to change the focus of her practice to satisfy a “deep desire to use the skills that I have developed to serve my community.” As CCLS’s Legal Director, she returns to her hometown to address the many challenges of communities in the Central Valley. Emilia says, “Working for CCLS allows me to put my legal experience to good use in a community to which I owe a great deal.”

Emilia brings extensive litigation and leadership experience to CCLS: for the past ten years, she worked in the private sector for corporate and large government clients. Most recently, she was a senior counsel at a firm in Glendale, CA, where she managed matters in federal district courts throughout the country involving mortgage fraud schemes.

From 2007 to 2015, she worked as a commercial litigator at the Los Angeles office of a prestigious national law firm, Arnold & Porter, where she represented clients in complex commercial, class action and federal multidistrict litigation in state and federal courts. In her pro bono cases, she prioritized working with Spanish-speaking clients due to a significant need for bilingual lawyers and a

desire to maintain her language skills.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Harvard University and a Juris Doctor from Stanford Law School. Emilia has a passion to help those most in need and states, “I was raised to value, above all else, concepts like community service, battling injustice, and improving the world.”

Emilia would love to hear from you. Please contact her at (559) 570-1215 or email emorris@centralcallegal.org.

VIRGINIA — THANK YOU FOR 47 YEARS



Virginia Salmeron started as a Legal Secretary at CCLS 47 years ago and still enjoys coming into the office everyday.

She remains dedicated to our clients and values the mission of CCLS. “I am blessed to be working together with a group of dedicated people who provide legal services to those in need to better their lives and give them hope.”

She has fond memories of her time with us. A former client calls her every year during the holidays to wish us the best and to thank CCLS for being there for her and her family.

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(Strategic Plan — continues from page 1)

Dr. Pacheco-Werner predicts CCLS’s legal needs assessment will identify emerging needs not widely known, and help us to better understand our client communities’ opportunities and challenges. To ensure a rigorous and thorough assessment, the study design includes on-line confidential surveys, extensive document reviews, and interviews of clients, staff and Board members, and community partners. CVHPI will analyze the resulting data for important gaps and solutions to identified problems. CCLS’s Board and staff will use this data and analysis to create a five-year strategic plan, on which the Board will set CCLS’s program priorities for 2018.

This process enables us to focus our limited resources on addressing the root causes of poverty, such as unequal land use policies, legal barriers to equity, and maldistribution of benefits, through systems-changing advocacy as well as legal work that meets individual clients’ needs.

Clearly, CCLS cannot accomplish this alone: we need help from all of you as we work to end poverty in our communities. One important way you can help is by adding your input to our data. We invite you to join us in this endeavor by completing the community survey at https://fresnostate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9zctkv0bhtsX0p

ONE OF OUR OWN GIVES BACK

Iqbal Baines, an AmeriCorps (volunteer) at Central California Legal Services, (CCLS) helps at our monthly Veterans’ Legal Clinic working with volunteer attorneys to assist veterans in estate planning and expungements.

Watching the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, he knew he had to do something. He called a friend and they posted a video on social media asking for help with supplies. To their surprise, the video was shared all over Fresno. They received hundreds of donations including non-perishable food, baby supplies, pet supplies, children clothes, and medications. The Punjabi Cultural Association became involved raising over \$20,000 from the community. Iqbal stepped up to assist hundreds of individuals and their families affected by the hurricane.

Iqbal enjoys giving back and has a long history of community involvement dating back to his youth. He attends San Joaquin College of Law and will complete his studies in May 2018, with a focus in real property, immigration and estate planning.

Kind gestures such as these leave a powerful and lasting impression in the lives of those who are in desperate need. We are fortunate to have Iqbal on our team at CCLS.



Iqbal assists veteran James Lowe Jr. (left) at the Veterans’ Stand Down in preparing a will, power of attorney and advance healthcare directive. This is a great area of need for many of our veterans.

CCLS Thanks its Funders
(partial list)

Legal Services Corporation

The State Bar of California – IOLTA
& Equal Access Fund

The California Endowment

Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging

Merced County Area Agency on Aging

Kings County Commission on Aging

Blue Shield Foundation

Covered California

Department of Managed Health Care

Susan G. Komen Northern
and Central Valley

Thank you for your support!

STAND DOWN 2017

Central Valley veterans attended the 2017 Stand Down in Fresno this past September. They received free services including: assistance with VA claims, educational and employment opportunities, California ID and Social Security Card applications, mental and medical health referrals, haircuts, hot meals, personal hygiene supplies, and other community resources. Our pro bono attorneys assisted with drafting wills, advance health care directives along with expungement of criminal records. Thank you to our volunteer attorneys for helping our veterans at Stand Down.



Central California Legal Services, Inc.

Executive Director: Patience Milrod

Development Director: Ms. Luisa Medina

Development Assistant: Marcela Alvarez

Contributing Writers: Emilia Morris

Photo Credits: Hilda Vásquez & Marcela Alvarez

THANK YOU TO OUR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS



Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services

CCLS and the State Bar of California presented certificates to recognize the contributions of lawyers who volunteer their time and expertise on behalf of low-income clients. A "Thank You Reception" was held at the Law Office of Miles, Sears & Eanni.

Thank you to Congressman Jim Costa for the Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition.

Dania Alvarenga
 Ana de Alba
 Agnieszka Gill
 Nancy Levan
 Charles Palmer

Craig Armstrong
 Anne Fadenrecht
 Paul Lerandeanu
 Alex Lozada

Thank you to our sponsors: Miles, Sears & Eanni
 The California Endowment

JOIN US ONLINE!



Connect with us and other supporters at our website or Facebook.

See how your gifts are making a difference, and learn about upcoming events or volunteer opportunities.

Project First Step Training

Thank you to McCormick Barstow LLP for hosting the annual Project First Step (PFS) volunteer training held on October 13, 2017. PFS provides free legal representation to domestic violence victims.

Special thanks to the following presenters: Fresno Superior Court Judge Glenda Allen-Hill, Stacy Gomez with the Marjaree Mason Center and CCLS staff attorney Linda Richardson.

For Information on how you can lend your support, please contact Paul C. Mullen, VLSP Supervising Attorney at email: pmullen@centralcallegal.org.



Please consider a sustaining gift through a monthly donation. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent provided by the law. Select your giving options at our website <http://www.centralcallegal.org/donate>

Yes! I Support Central California Legal Services, Inc.

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Central California Legal Services, Inc.

2115 Kern Street, Suite 1
Fresno, CA 93721
T: (559) 570-1200
TF: (800) 675-8001
F: (559) 570-1254

2025 W. Feemster Avenue
Visalia, CA 93277
T: (559) 733-8770
TF: (800) 350-3654
F: (559) 635-8096

1640 'N' Street, Suite 200
Merced, CA 95340
T: (209) 723-5466
TF: (800) 464-3111
F: (209) 723-1315

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LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION



The Board of Directors of
Central California Legal Services, Inc.



Cordially invite you to our Visalia Office
Open House & Reception

Thursday, December 14, 2017

4:30 PM — 6:30 PM

2025 W. Feemster Ave.

Visalia, CA

Please join us for a festive celebration
with friends, food, and fun!

Please RSVP by December 11, 2017 to Ms. Orchid Hubanks at orchidhubanks@centralcallegal.org.
For further information, contact Ms. Ramona Trevino at (559) 802-1143 or rtrevino@centralcallegal.org