

Legal First RespondersSM

About Us

Legal First RespondersSM is a statewide program run by the Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative (DLAC) that keeps a corps of volunteer attorneys trained and ready to respond in the immediate aftermath of a disaster

The Need

Legal issues can occur weeks, months or even years after a disaster. Many disaster survivors are not aware that their issues are in fact legal issues that can be resolved with an attorney. We currently need attorneys to respond to the recent California wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Common Legal Topics Include:

- Consumer Issues
- Employment
- Evictions
- FEMA
- Family Law
- Insurance

Deployment

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

California Free Legal Answers: A Statewide online legal assistance program where attorneys answer COVID-19 or disaster-related legal questions. Click [here](#) to sign up

Disaster Legal Assistance Hotline: A Statewide legal assistance hotline dedicated to wildfire-related questions. If you are interested in volunteering, please email the program coordinator Alexa Montalvo at alexa@acbanet.org

Remote FEMA Appeals Clinic: A remote clinic that will take place via Zoom. This clinic is aimed at helping wildfire survivors complete their FEMA appeal process. If you are interested in volunteering, please email the program coordinator Alexa Montalvo at alexa@acbanet.org

Other Possible Volunteer Opportunities (dependant on COVID-19 restrictions)

- Staffing a legal table at a centralized Disaster Resource Center (alongside Red Cross, FEMA, United Way, food bank, etc.)
- Staffing a disaster-related clinic located at a legal services or social services provider (Some clinics will cover many areas of law, while others may be focused on FEMA appeals or insurance issues.)
- Handling a pro bono case (e.g. eviction case, FEMA appeal, insurance litigation, etc.) for a survivor of a disaster.
- Serving as an expert mentor to other volunteers serving survivors of a disaster

www.disasterlegalservicesca.com/legalfirstresponders

Training Overview

Disaster Training

8 hours of disaster-related training is provided to prepare attorneys for the volunteer opportunities

View the trainings here:

<https://pbtraining.org/course-cat/disaster-relief/>

FAQs

What Is the Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative (DLAC)?

The Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative (DLAC) is made up of law firms and legal aid organizations that are committed to providing free legal services to disaster survivors

Who am I volunteering for?

Pro bono attorneys with the Legal First RespondersSM Corps will be volunteering with the Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative, and not with just one legal services provider. Malpractice insurance will be provided by Legal Access Alameda, but volunteers may be directed to various clinics or hotlines run by other agencies. Disaster response is by necessity a regional effort, and not limited to one program or another.

What if I have conflicts?

Attorneys unable to help in a particular area of law due to conflicts can skip that training; we can ensure that you do not have to help clients with that subject area.

For more information, contact Tiela Chalmers at tiela@acbanet.org



Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative

Who We Are

DLAC is a coalition of law firms and organizations all throughout California whose goal is to provide free legal assistance to those impacted by disasters and COVID-19 in California.

What We Do

DLAC's free legal services help folks that have been impacted by a disaster, like an earthquake or a wildfire. Through DLAC's free legal assistance programs, folks can get free legal advice, resources, and referrals from a volunteer attorney.

What are DLAC's services?

DLAC offers free legal help through two platforms: California Free Legal Answers and the Disaster Hotline.

California Free Legal Answers is an online platform where you can submit your legal question and get a written answer from a volunteer attorney. You just open an account, submit your question, and log in later to view the attorney's response.

On the Disaster Hotline, you can call 888-382-3406 to speak to a volunteer attorney for free.

In 2021, from January to September, Free Legal Answers helped **1,236 people** with legal advice, resources and referrals.

Scan here to visit our website!



Learn more about DLAC, our programs, and how to get involved.

Who can use these services?

California Free Legal Answers is open to those who live in California and have been impacted by a disaster or COVID-19. Visit ca.freelegalanswers.com to sign up and learn more.

The Disaster Hotline is open to those in California who have been impacted by a disaster, like a wildfire.

How can I get involved?

If you are an attorney and are interested in our pro bono opportunities, visit disasterlegalservicesca.org/volunteer/ to sign up and learn more about our available opportunities