

EMERITUS
ATTORNEY
Pro Bono
PROGRAM

THE EMERITUS ATTORNEY PRO
BONO PROGRAM WAS
ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BAR
BOARD OF GOVERNORS IN 1987
TO ENCOURAGE RETIRED
LAWYERS TO REPRESENT LOW-
INCOME CALIFORNIANS ON A
PRO BONO BASIS. STATE BAR
ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE
WAIVED TO ALLOW ATTORNEYS
TO PRACTICE LAW FOR THE SOLE
PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PRO
BONO LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO
INDIGENT CLIENTS THROUGH
QUALIFIED LEGAL SERVICES
PROVIDERS AND STATE BAR
CERTIFIED LAWYER REFERRAL
SERVICES.

This is a time of crisis for many people who are poor and in need of an attorney. With limited resources, California's legal services programs are struggling to survive on leaner budgets, while attempting to help increasing numbers of clients. During the decade of the nineties, the number of Californians in poverty jumped 90%. The gap between Californians unable to pay for legal services and programs available to serve them continues to grow.

The level of funding from the State Bar's Legal Services Trust Fund Program is lower due to continued low interest rates.

The Federal Government is shouldering a smaller share of the funding responsibility for legal services than at any time in the past three decades.

Many legal issues cut into the very fabric of people's lives. Indigent Californians need legal assistance with AIDS law, domestic violence, elder law, family law, health care, housing, immigration law, and public benefits. With the concurrent challenges of increasing legal needs among the poor and fewer resources devoted to them, the pro bono efforts of Emeritus Attorneys are vital.



State Bar of California | Office of Legal Services,
Access & Fairness Programs

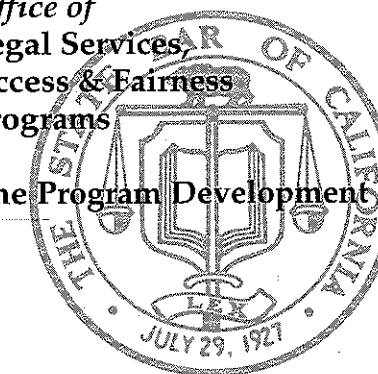
**THE STATE BAR
OF CALIFORNIA**

THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT UNIT provides technical assistance and support to legal services providers, bar associations, and other organizations to expand legal services for low and middle-income Californians.

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Legal Services,
Access & Fairness
Programs
The Program Development Unit



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