

Student Legal Services

Overview

Student Legal Services ("SLS") offers the following services to students:

- **Student Consultations:** SLS provides free and confidential 30-minute consultations to currently registered students offering advice and guidance related to their legal questions, rights, and obligations. Areas of law include landlord/tenant law, criminal law, credit issues and collection matters, auto and health insurance claims, accidents and personal injury, consumer fraud, technology and privacy issues, general contract law, small claims actions, traffic and alcohol citations, basic estate planning matters, and family law. Although SLS does not typically represent students, it does assist them in the preparation and review of letters, legal documents, and court filings. Where appropriate, SLS provides referrals to outside counsel or other third-party resources for students who may need representation. SLS also maintains a set of self-help legal reference books available to students for review in 102 Sproul Hall.
- **Tip Sheets and Forms:** SLS offers a set of tip sheets and template documents on its Web site that relate to the most common areas of legal questions for students. Topics of the tip sheets include recovering tenant security deposits, terminating a lease, alcohol and the law, shoplifting citations, how to interact with law enforcement, and a compilation of community legal resources. Template documents include forms such as a demand letter, a sublease agreement, a lease assignment, and a roommate agreement.
- **Informational Workshops:** SLS is available to present educational sessions about legal rights and obligations in various situations, including landlord/tenant law, dealing with law enforcement, and responding to "pre-litigation" copyright infringement actions by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

Consultation Areas and Sources of Referrals

Most Common Legal Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police citations for alcohol, shoplifting and other misdemeanor offenses (21.9%) • Landlord-Tenant (19.0%) • Auto insurance/accident/other personal injury (10.1%) • Filesharing/copyright infringement (primarily RIAA matters) (7.4%) • Family Law (5.8%) • Small claims court actions (4.5%)
Top Referral Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal research by student (25.8%) • Campus administrative or academic department (21.6%, from 19 different departments) • ASUC Student Legal Clinic, ASUC Renter's Legal Assistance, and Student Advocate (13.4%) • CLL staff (11.5%) • Friend or previous SLS client (10.1%)

2007-08 Highlights and Key Metrics

- Provided 483 total consultations to 378 different clients (21.7% of consultations were return visits by students with follow-up needs).
- Offered educational workshop and limited representation to students in 28 matters related to copyright infringement on peer-to-peer filesharing networks alleged by the RIAA.
- Established working relationship with numerous campus departments as well as the ASUC Student Legal Clinic, ASUC Renter's Legal Assistance, and Student Advocate's Office to ensure that student legal questions are appropriately referred to SLS.
- Developed relationships with numerous local referral attorneys and Student Legal Services attorneys at campuses throughout the Western U.S.
- Served a client base somewhat closely matched to the overall student population, with the following demographic groups consulting with SLS in a proportion significantly higher than their numbers on campus: African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, age 23+, transfer admits, and lower-income students. (Student demographic data is all aggregated.)