

Student Legal Services 2021-22

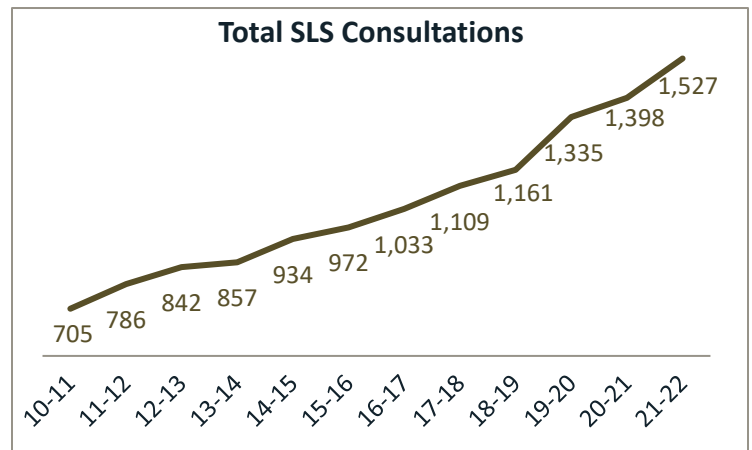
Overview

The Student Legal Services (“SLS”) mission is to **support student retention by improving students’ ability to stay in school via high-quality counseling and assistance with their legal issues.** SLS offers the following services:

- **Legal Consultations:** Free and confidential 30-minute consultations for currently registered students offering advice, guidance, and coaching related to their legal questions, rights, obligations, and processes. Areas of law include landlord/tenant, small claims actions, family law, traffic and alcohol citations, criminal law, credit and collection matters, auto and health insurance claims, accidents and personal injury matters, consumer fraud, technology and privacy issues, general contract law, and basic estate planning. SLS does not represent students, but assists in the preparation and review of letters, legal documents, and court filings. SLS provides referrals to outside counsel or other third-party resources as appropriate.
- **Tip Sheets and Forms:** SLS offers a set of tip sheets and template documents on its website that relate to the most common areas of legal questions for students, which are continually updated and expanded.
- **Workshops:** SLS presents educational sessions about legal rights on topics of interest or concern to students.

2021-22 Highlights and Key Metrics

- **1,527 total legal consultations**, up 9.2% from 1,398 in 2020-21 (29.3% of consultations were return visits by students with follow-up needs).
- **A 2nd SLS attorney (funded at 0.80 FTE by a CACSSF grant) started in March 2022.**
- Topic areas of growth from 20-21: Family Law, Employment, and Auto/Personal Injury. Landlord-Tenant issues declined from a huge 20-21 COVID-related increase.
- The following demographic groups consulted with SLS in a proportion higher than their average numbers on campus: African-American students (**44.9% higher** than the campus average), Latinx students (**8.6% higher** than the campus average) Native American students (**163.8% higher**), transfer students (**58.3% higher**), students age 24+ (**51.4% higher**), Pell Grant-eligible students (**32.8% more likely** to be Pell eligible), and lower-income students (**47.0%** of SLS undergrad clients had family incomes less than \$50,000/year, and median income of SLS clients is 20% lower than the campus median). *[All student demographic data is aggregated.]*
- Among all SLS clients, 4.4% were encountering severe financial distress, 5.4% were dealing with housing insecurity or significant habitability problems, and 3.0% were at risk of potential violence and/or targets of harm.
- Student learning outcomes assessment survey of SLS clients had 120 responses (21.7% rate; see separate report).



Most Common Legal Issues	Top Referral Sources
Landlord-Tenant (47.9%)	Friend/word of mouth or previous SLS client (49.4%)
Police citations for alcohol, shoplifting and other misdemeanor or infraction offenses (10.5%)	Campus administrative or academic department (21.5%, from 62 different referral sources)
Small Claims Court (8.7%)	Personal research by student (23.8%)
Auto insurance/accident/other personal injury (7.4%)	City of Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board (2.1%)
Family Law (6.8%)	Parent of student (2.1%)
Employment (4.9%)	