

# Student Legal Services 2023-24

## Overview

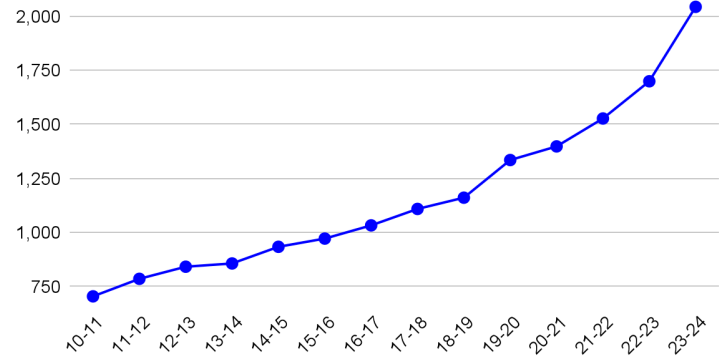
The Student Legal Services (“SLS”) mission is to **support student retention by improving students’ ability to stay in school via high-quality counseling and assistance with their legal issues**. SLS offers the following services:

- **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, credit and collection matters, auto and health insurance claims, accidents and personal injury, 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.
- **Workshops:** SLS presents educational sessions about legal rights on topics of interest or concern to students.

## 2023-24 Highlights and Key Metrics

- **2,043 total legal consultations**, up 20.3% from 1,699 in 2022-23 (34.6% of consultations were return visits by students with follow-up needs).
- **A 2<sup>nd</sup> attorney increased from 80% to 100% FTE (funded by a CACSSF grant) at the start of 2023-24.**
- Topic areas of growth from 2022-23: Landlord-Tenant only.
- The following demographic groups consulted with SLS in a proportion higher than their average numbers on campus: African-American students (**84.7% higher** than the campus average), Latinx students (**9.3% higher** than the campus average) Native American students (**138.4% higher**), transfer students (**59.2% higher**), and students age 24+ (**54.1% higher**), Pell Grant-eligible students (**46.7% more likely** to be Pell eligible), and lower-income students (**36.2%** of SLS undergrad clients had family incomes less than \$50,000/year, and median income of SLS clients was 30% lower than the campus median). *[All student demographic data is aggregated.]*
- Among all SLS clients, 4.2% were encountering severe financial distress, 9.1% were dealing with housing insecurity or significant habitability problems, and 1.9% were at risk of potential violence and/or targets of harm.
- Student learning outcomes assessment survey of SLS clients had 96 responses (14.6% rate; see separate report).

Total SLS Consultations



### Most Common Legal Issues

Landlord-Tenant (57.8%)
Auto insurance/accident/other personal injury (7.8%)
Small Claims Court (5.2%)
Police citations for alcohol, shoplifting and other misdemeanor or infraction offenses (4.7%)
Employment (3.7%)
Family Law (3.6%)

### Top Referral Sources

Personal research by student (29.5%)
Friend/word of mouth or previous SLS client (25.0%)
Campus administrative or academic department (19.8 %, from 58 different referral sources)
Student Advocates Office + ASUC SLC (2.7%)
City of Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board (1.8%)