

Student Legal Services 2024-25

Overview

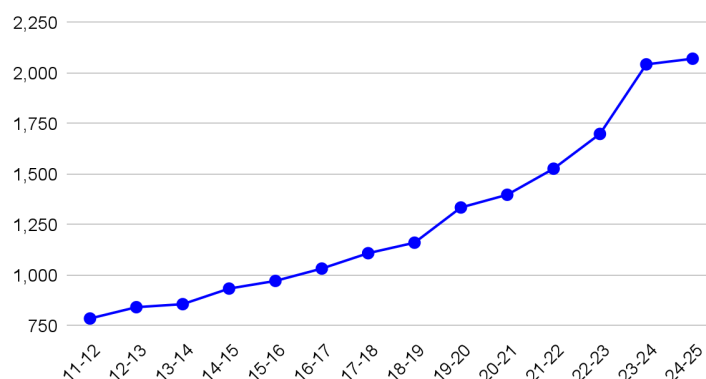
The Student Legal Services (“SLS”) mission is to **support student retention by improving students’ ability to stay in school via high-quality counseling and assistance with their legal issues**. SLS offers the following services:

- **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 Web site 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.

2024-25 Highlights and Key Metrics

- **2,071 total legal consultations**, up 1.4% from 2,043 in 2023-24 (32.2% of consultations were return visits by students with follow-up needs).
- **A 2nd 1.0 FTE attorney was funded by a CACSSF grant.**
- Topic areas of growth from 23-24: Landlord-Tenant, Immigration questions and referrals.
- The following demographic groups consulted with SLS in a proportion higher than their average numbers on campus: African-American students (**52.3% higher** than the campus average), Native American students (**182.9% higher**), transfer students (**10.8% higher**), and students age 24+ (**32.9% higher**), Pell Grant-eligible students (**43.1% more likely** to be Pell eligible), and lower-income students (**38.0%** of SLS undergrad clients had family incomes less than \$60,000/year, and median income of SLS clients is **31.9% lower** than the campus median). *[All student demographic data is aggregated.]*
- Among all SLS clients, 6.23% were encountering severe financial distress, 8.5% were dealing with housing insecurity or significant habitability problems, and 2.9% were at risk of potential violence and/or targets of harm.
- Student learning outcomes assessment survey of SLS clients had 91 responses (14.2% rate; see separate report).

Total SLS Consultations



Most Common Legal Issues

Landlord-Tenant (58.2%)	Friend/word of mouth (29.6%)
Auto insurance/accident/other personal injury (7.5%)	Personal research by student (27.9%)
Small Claims Court (5.1%)	Previously used service (19.7%)
Police citations for alcohol, shoplifting and other misdemeanor or infraction offenses (5.1%)	Campus administrative or academic department (18.3%, from 56 different referral sources)
Family Law (4.0%)	City of Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board (3.5%)
Employment (3.5%)	Student Advocates Office + ASUC SLC (2.1%)

Top Referral Sources