



LRIS AND ITS PANEL ATTORNEYS:

PARTNERING FOR SENIORS

Carole Conn

The Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) recently developed the Senior Legal Services Program to better highlight the range of legal services it offers for seniors. Low-income adults age sixty-five and older receive a free, thirty-minute consultation, with an experienced attorney.

Currently there are 4.5 million seniors in California, but the population of older Americans is increasing. In California, those sixty-five and older are projected to constitute 20 percent of the population by 2030. Growing older presents new opportunities as well as changes in health, lifestyle, family connections, and more. Whether your clients are personally experiencing these changes or are caring for aging relatives, they are not alone. Contacting a lawyer can help them avoid aggravation, family discord, and confusion.

The public service mission of LRIS looks to educate and provide referrals for clients to attorneys who are vetted for their experience in the many areas of law that relate to the public's needs.

LRIS's Senior Legal Services Program purposefully seeks to highlight the availability of these experienced lawyers who handle topics relevant to what seniors and their caretakers need to know.

Low-income adults age sixty-five and older receive a free, thirty-minute consultation, with an experienced attorney.

Those areas include wills and estate planning; Medi-Cal and Medicare issues; pensions and retirement matters; disability and government benefit claims; negligence and medical malpractice; housing and real property matters; and elder financial and physical abuse.

Other agency referrals that may best be suited to a particular need are also available through LRIS.

There are many laws, benefits, and special services available to help seniors stay in control of circumstances important to their health and welfare. For seniors or caretakers, consulting with a legal professional can help them plan ahead, know their options, and be aware of their rights.

For more information, please visit the LRIS Senior Legal Services Program page at sfbar.org/lris-seniors.

Carole Conn is the director of Public Service Programs for The Bar Association of San Francisco. She can be reached at cconn@sfbar.org.