

Superior Court of California
County of Imperial

Action Plan to Assist Self-Represented Litigants

1. Services currently available for SRLs: Center for Family Solutions, CRLA, Senior Citizens Legal Services, FLF (limited to support issues), small claims advisor/probate examiner, victim witness – probation department, Catholic Charities (immigration only), Quechan Nation – victim services, Campesinos Unidos – family support form preparation.
2. Challenges SRLs face in the community: Lack of legal advice in areas not covered in previous response, language barriers (Spanish), local forms, rules, other information not available electronically, no written or verbal assistance on navigating through courthouse and court processes generally, highest unemployment rate in state and lack of funds for fees/costs, transportation, court hours (8 am – 4 pm) not convenient for forms/payments/FLF.
3. What services are needed in community: Written, audio, electronic material on court locations, procedure, process; SHC (assistance) in areas of family law, probate, unlawful detainer, name change; more instruction sheets, videos, etc. on forms in English/Spanish; access to assistance (attorney or staff under attorney supervision) for forms, filing and service, court testimony, post-judgment procedures; electronic forms, rules, assistance on web site; transportation.
4. What services would you like to begin or expand when you return to your community? SHC (assistance in necessary areas of law, including remote areas); pamphlets, videos, etc. for court users (English/Spanish); partnership with bar associations to provide pro bono help in areas not covered by SHC; media exposure and other advertisement of available services; develop web site by court with rules, forms; improve transportation services.
5. Who are the potential partners for providing those services? Bar association (including San Diego); education institutions; work training center for services; television, cable, radios; county, cities, private transportation vendors; private entities/public entities for information dissemination; public libraries; Quechan Nation; state prisons.
6. What are your objectives in developing more services for SRLs?

Objective #1: SHC

Overall lead: Diane Altamirano

Other individuals responsible: Lyla, Judy, Lois, Tom

Funding options: grant applications, donations of computers/printers, inter-agency steering committee (county), private industry for copying, possibly other contributions, court budget.

Steps to achieve: investigate grant possibilities, look at existing models, gather research for basic handout for law library, increased awareness/participation of bar associations, space in which to locate centers.

Objective #2: Develop court web sites

Overall lead: Lyla

Other individuals responsible: Judy, Judge Jones, Count It, AOC, other courts, NCSC (National Center for State Courts)

Specific funding: trial court funding, grants, time donations

Steps to achieve: get samples from AOC, other courts NCSC; what should site contain, how much, if any, in Spanish

Objective #3: Information on court – English and Spanish

Overall lead: Judge Ulloa

Other individuals responsible: Lyla, Nancy

Funding options: Court grants, contributions (?), Rutter Adelphia, public access, help, interpreter association, time donation for translations.

Steps to achieve objective: Can get schools, county, etc. to help with graphics, obtain existing ones available from other sources (State Bar, AOC, other courts, grand jury foundation).

Objective #4: Transportation services

Overall lead: Judith

Other individuals responsible: Lois, Eric

Funding options: Partner with social services for vouchers, possibly Salvation Army for vans, also Catholic Charities, Dial-a-Ride, ARC

Specific steps to achieve : Can current providers expand services.