Helensview High School
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Legal Referral Partners

Juvenile Delinquency/Criminal Legal Resources

Youth, Rights & Justice

Youth, Rights & Justice is Oregon's leading nonprofit law firm dedicated exclusively to children and families. They represent youth in court, support youth in the foster care system, and provide school-based advocacy to help youth enroll and complete school successfully. They also provide expungement services and policy advocacy.

Criminal Justice Reform Clinic

The Criminal Justice Reform Clinic is housed at Lewis & Clark Law School and is a legal clinic where law students work on a variety of cases and issues related to what happens after a criminal conviction. Such issues include clemency, parole, access to courts for incarcerated youth, and forensic exoneration. The clinic has multiple youth justice projects that have improved outcomes for youth in Oregon.

Free Legal Services

Oregon Law Center

Oregon Law Center (OLC) provides free legal help to people struggling to make ends meet on matters related to their homes, livelihoods, medical care, and physical safety against domestic violence. To qualify, the household must be at or below 125% of the federal poverty level. OLC represents individuals regardless of immigration or incarceration status. Areas of expertise include assisting victims of domestic violence, farmworker rights, access to healthcare and services, and employment issues. OLC can also help if an individual has been accused of receiving too much money from a government program and the program is now requiring repayment. (OLC is currently not taking new clients, but will hopefully be taking new clients starting in January. *Last updated December 4, 2023.*)

Legal Aid Services of Oregon

Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) provides similar services as OLC. Due to certain federal restrictions, under most circumstances, LASO cannot represent individuals who are undocumented or incarcerated.

Immigration

Oregon Law Center ✴

Oregon Law Center provides limited immigration services, but as relevant to our students, they provide representation for Special Juvenile Immigration Status (SJIS) as a pathway to citizenship. SJIS is available to youth under age 21 who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by their parents and have a guardian established by a state court.

CLEAR Clinic ✴

The Community Legal & Education Access & Referral (CLEAR) Clinic is a legal clinic at Portland Community College Cascade Campus in North Portland. They provide free legal services to everyone in the Portland area (although filing fees may apply). Related to immigration, the CLEAR Clinic provides assistance for DACA renewals, immigration legal screenings, and limited scope deportation defense service through the Equity Corps of Oregon.

Equity Corps of Oregon

ECO is a collaboration of community-based organizations, nonprofits, and attorneys working to provide universal legal representation to all eligible immigrants in Oregon. In order to be eligible for ECO you must (1) be an Oregon resident; (2) make less than 200% of the federal poverty guideline as a household; and (3) be in danger of removal or experiencing a civic exclusion on account of immigration status.

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization ✴

IRCO's legal services team provides community education, navigation, and legal assistance to help community members understand their rights and access legal systems that are often otherwise barriers to their safety and success. *Immigration Legal Services* provides consultation, representation, and application aid for immigration processes–including refugee/asylee status adjustment, citizenship, naturalization, work permits, green card renewals, deportation defense, and more. *Disability Legal Services* assists immigrants and refugees, adults, and children with obtaining Social Security disability benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and connects clients and their families with wraparound services and resources.

SOAR Immigration Legal Services

SOAR Immigration Legal Services provides legal services, educational services, and legal consultations regarding applications for US citizenship, asylum, deportation defenses, DACA renewals, employment authorization, family-based visas, green cards, temporary protected status, U-Visas, and the Violence Against Women Act.

Catholic Charities of Oregon Immigration Legal Services

Catholic Charities' Immigration Legal Services (ILS) program is a nonprofit law program that provides low-cost consultations and legal representation to immigrants and refugees, with a focus on family reunification and assistance to the most vulnerable immigrants and refugees, including survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Their services include family-based applications/visas, green cards, naturalization and citizenship, DACA renewals, Violence Against Women Act protections, visas for crime victims (U-visa), temporary protected status, asylum, removal defense, and refugee adjustment of status/family petition.

Housing Advocacy

Eviction Defense Project

The Eviction Defense Project is run by Legal Aid Services of Oregon, and provides free legal assistance to low-income tenants facing eviction court cases. You must contact the Eviction Defense Project before your first court appearance date for them to help you. Fill out the web form linked here, or call 888-585-9638.

CLEAR Clinic

The Community Legal & Education Access & Referral (CLEAR) Clinic is a legal clinic at Portland Community College Cascade Campus in North Portland. They provide free legal services to everyone in the Portland area (although filing fees may apply). Related to housing, the clinic provides eviction expungements to help people realize their right to housing by preventing landlords from improperly considering past evictions in residential-tenancy decisions. They also provide limited legal advice to assist people navigating the housing court process pro se, and information and training for tenants to self-advocate. The clinic also offers assistance to tenants making requests to their landlord, such as requesting a repair or accommodation, or the return of a security deposit. The clinic hosts drop-in clinics the last Friday of each month or you can fill out an intake form and mark "Tenant Advocacy Letters" to request online assistance.

General Legal Resources

Oregon State Bar: Modest Means Program

The Oregon State Bar provides a service that helps moderate-income Oregonians find more affordable legal help. Lawyers in the Modest Means program have agreed to charge reduced rates to help individuals referred through the program. The best way to determine whether or not you qualify is to fill out an application. If you do not qualify, the Oregon State Bar will work with you to explore other options.

✴️ = Sarah has a contact at the organization. Reach out to Sarah for questions and an introduction. seinowski@mesd.k12.or.us or 971-712-6684