



LEGAL SERVICES
REFERRAL LIST
IN ERIE COUNTY

THIS PUBLICATION PROVIDED COURTESY OF



THE ERIE COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION

NOTE:

The following information is accurate as of the date of this publication, but subject to change depending on adequacy of funding, availability of advocates and client's cooperation.

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If you reside outside Erie County and require legal assistance, please contact the New York State Bar Association at 518-463-3200.

**ASSIGNED COUNSEL PROGRAM
(ACP)/AID TO INDIGENT
PRISONERS SOCIETY, INC. (AIP)**

170 FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 400
BUFFALO, NY 14202

TELEPHONE: 716.856.8804

ELIGIBILITY Client must be referred by the Court.
Client must be financially unable to afford counsel.
125% of poverty level income is used as guideline depending on type of case, but other factors may be considered.
Assets also considered.

ACP WILL HANDLE CASES CONCERNING:

FAMILY COURT MATTERS:

- Child abuse (respondent)
- Child neglect (respondent)
- Paternity (respondent)
- Family offense (respondent & petitioner)
- Custody/visitation (respondent [all] & petitioner [parents])
- Violation of any previous order (petitioner [except for support orders] and respondent)
- Foster care placement & extension of foster placement (respondent)
- Permanent neglect (respondent)
- Termination of parental rights (respondent)
- Termination of foster care placement (petitioner)
- Surrender of parental rights
- Respondents in Family Treatment Court
- Contempt (respondent)

SUPREME COURT MATTERS:

- Any matter under the "Family Court Matters" list above which is being heard in Supreme Court rather than in Family Court.

CRIMINAL MATTERS:

- Trial level courts (individual should keep the scheduled court appearance and request a referral for an attorney)
- Parole hearing (final)
- Preliminary parole hearings, where a special finding of the need for counsel has been made by the hearing officer
- Administrative Parole appeals
- Criminal appeals to County Court
- Contempt
- Criminal and Family Court appeals to Appellate Division & Court of Appeals
- Defendants in drug courts

SURROGATE'S COURT MATTERS:

- Parents opposing adoptions

**BAR ASSOCIATION OF ERIE
COUNTY'S LAWYER REFERRAL
AND INFORMATION SERVICE**

438 MAIN STREET, 6TH FLOOR
BUFFALO, NY 14202

TELEPHONE: 716.852.3100

ELIGIBILITY No requirements except resources to hire an attorney.
Wide variety of types of cases handled.
Available to people who do not qualify for free services.
\$20 for first consultation.
Fees for additional services after the first half-hour are arranged between you and the lawyer.

**ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT
(VLP)**

237 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1000
MAIN SENECA BUILDING
BUFFALO, NY 14203

TELEPHONE: 716.847.0662

ELIGIBILITY Based upon 125% of the poverty level.
Assets also considered.
Please advise clients to call for an appointment.

VLP WILL MAKE REFERRALS TO PRO BONO ATTORNEYS FOR CASES CONCERNING:

BANKRUPTCY

CONSUMER PROBLEMS (I.E. CONTRACTORS)

DEBT COLLECTION DEFENSE:

- Frozen bank accounts
- Garnishments
- Lawsuit defense

FAMILY LAW:

- Divorce
- Support actions
- Adoption/guardianship (represent petitioner)
- Paternity (represent petitioner)
- Standby guardianships
- Article 81 guardianships (Court Evaluator only)

- Article 17-A guardianships
- Name changes

FORECLOSURE:

- Tax foreclosures

IMMIGRATION LAW:

- Immigrant victims of domestic violence
- Immigrant victims of human trafficking
- Asylum
- Citizenship matters
- Aliens detained and facing deportation

INCOME TAX:

- Problems concerning a prior year (we do not assist with filing current year taxes)
- Landlord/Tenant (attorney available in courtroom at Buffalo City Court on M/W/F mornings)

PEOPLE AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS:

- Permanency Planning for children of families affected by HIV/AIDS
- Wide range of civil legal services

SMALL ESTATES (I.E. TO CLEAR UP TITLE TO HOME OF CLIENT)

SMALL NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

STUDENT LOANS

TORT ACTIONS (REPRESENT DEFENDANT)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

WILLS AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY

**ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)
OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT (OCSE)**

95 FRANKLIN STREET, ROOM 728
RATH BUILDING
BUFFALO, NY 14202

TELEPHONE: 1.888.208.4485

ELIGIBILITY Support must be payable through the County Support Collection Unit.

\$75/hr fee which may be collected from future support collection, but a bill will be sent and person may pay for services separately.

DSS WILL HANDLE CASES CONCERNING:

- Child Support

**LEGAL AID BUREAU OF
BUFFALO, INC. (LAB)**

237 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1602
MAIN SENECA BUILDING
BUFFALO, NY 14203

TELEPHONE: 716.853.9555

ELIGIBILITY

Some of our grants restrict services based upon geographic location, while others are available through Western New York. Income guidelines vary depending on the type of service provided. Please call for specific program information.

REENTRY SERVICES PROJECT

Our Reentry Services Project is available to individuals recently released from incarceration with a variety of legal needs. We strive to assist with common legal challenges facing this population, including issues of family reunification, employment, and housing.

BUFFALO CITY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

LAB represents veterans in criminal offenses in Buffalo City Veterans Treatment Court. Our Civil Unit will assist any client represented by our office in Veterans Treatment Court with ancillary civil issues that we handle in-house. Our civil staff will also provide referrals in other practice areas.

HOUSING PROGRAM

LAB's Housing Program can provide help to low income individuals with landlord/tenant matters, housing discrimination, and tax or mortgage foreclosure. We also help individuals with housing & health code violations in the City of Buffalo.

FAMILY LAW

LAB handles complex Family Law matters in Supreme Court. Our office prioritizes Supreme Court contested matters with complex issues. This includes divorces involving domestic violence, mental health issues, and custody disputes, to name a few. We also collaborate with Every Person Influences Children (EPIC) to assist some individuals with legal parenting matters. We will occasionally handle other family matters on a case by case basis. Please call for further information.

IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE PROJECT

Our Immigrant/Refugee Project focuses on serving the legal needs of this target population in establishing secure and independent living by assisting with a number of different civil legal needs as they may arise.

INCOME MANAGEMENT

Income Management cases we handle include unemployment, child support, maintenance, and bankruptcy for clients who qualify for services. We also handle some consumer matters, including medical debt, water shut-offs, and various consumer credit issues.

**LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE
ELDERLY, DISABLED OR
DISADVANTAGED (LSED)**

237 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1015
MAIN SENECA BUILDING
BUFFALO, NY 14203

TELEPHONE: 716.853.3087

ELIGIBILITY

Some of our grants restrict services based upon age, with no income guidelines and some programs have income guidelines and are available for all ages. Please call for specific program information.

HEALTH LAW PROJECT

Our Health Law Project is available to individuals age sixty and over in the counties of Erie, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Allegany and the Seneca Nation of Indians. We handle Medicare, Medicaid and private health insurance appeals, as well as home health care and institutional disputes.

VETERANS SUPPORT PROJECT

Our Veterans Support Project is for veterans referred to us through the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court. We primarily handle family law, health law, housing law and retirement issues for low-income Veterans of any age and provide limited services in other practice areas.

HOUSING PROGRAM

LSED's Housing Program can provide help to low income individuals of any age in tax or mortgage foreclosure. We also help seniors facing eviction, or those with housing and health code violations in the City of Buffalo.

FAMILY LAW

Under the practice area of Family Law the Erie County Department of Senior Services provides funding to our agency to help Erie County residents age 55 and older with custody and adoption issues involving their minor relatives.

ELDER ABUSE

LSED handles referrals of Elder Abuse both physical and financial for residents of Erie County. We are also a founding member and current chair of the Erie County Council on Elder Abuse.

INCOME MANAGEMENT

Income Management cases we handle include Social Security Retirement, SSI and Railroad Retirement appeals and overpayments related to old age and survivor benefits. We also handle some consumer matters, in particular rent-to-own and reverse mortgage disputes, medical debt and water shut-offs.

**MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF ERIE COUNTY, INC.
LEGAL SERVICES AND
ADVOCACY (LSA)**

999 DELAWARE AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY 14209
TELEPHONE: 716.886.1242

ELIGIBILITY Have a psychiatric diagnosis or be a current or past recipient of mental health services and live in Erie County.

LSA WILL HANDLE CASES CONCERNING:

- Social Security Disability
- Supplemental security income
- Medicaid
- Public assistance
- Landlord/tenant problems
- Complaints concerning outpatient mental health services
- Utility problems
- Debt collection

**MENTAL HYGIENE LEGAL
SERVICES (MHLS)**

438 MAIN STREET, SUITE 400
BUFFALO, NY 14202
TELEPHONE: 716.845.3650

The Mental Hygiene Legal Service (MHLS) provides legal services, advice and assistance to persons receiving care or alleged to be in need of care at inpatient and community-based facilities for the mentally disabled. MHLS represents such persons in judicial and administrative proceedings concerning admission, retention, transfer, treatment and guardianship. In addition to handling judicial proceedings, MHLS provides advice and representation regarding standards of care and other matters affecting the civil liberties of persons receiving care at facilities for the mentally disabled. MHLS can also be assigned as counsel or court evaluator in Mental Hygiene Law Article 81 guardianship proceedings for persons in any type of facility.

**NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL
SERVICES (NLS)**

237 MAIN STREET, SUITE 400
BUFFALO, NY 14203

TELEPHONE: 716.847.0650

ELIGIBILITY Based upon 125% of poverty level.
Assets also considered.

NLS WILL HANDLE CASES CONCERNING:

PUBLIC BENEFITS :

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Emergency Assistance
- Emergency Housing
- Public Assistance

DISABILITY LAW:

- Special Education
- Social Security/SSI work incentives
- Funding of medical equipment
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Institutional Rights
- Residential/Treatment issues
- Discrimination (employment, housing)
- Social Security/SSI Denials and Terminations
- Student Loans
- Benefits Counseling

HOUSING:

- Evictions
- Housing Conditions
- Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Issues
- Public and Subsidized Housing Applications, Terminations and other issues
- Illegal Lockouts
- Housing Discrimination
- Other landlord/tenant matters

FAMILY LAW:

- Divorce (on a limited basis)
- Child Support (on a limited basis)
- Custody (for cases involving risk of child snatching or interstate issues or where assigned counsel is not available)
- Domestic Violence

WNY HEROES, INC.

2809 WEHRLE DRIVE, SUITE 8
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221

TELEPHONE: 888.400.3892

The mission of WNY Heroes is to provide veterans and members of the armed services, their families, widows, and children of deceased veterans with access to essential services and resources that support their lives and sustain their dignity.

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE INCLUDE:

- Direct financial assistance
- Referrals to critical services such as mental health providers, legal providers and low and no-cost housing
- Holiday meals and gifts
- Backpacks and school supplies for children of veterans

AMHERST VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

400 JOHN JAMES AUDUBON PKWY • AMHERST, NEW YORK 14228

PRESIDING JUSTICE

Hon. Mark G. Farrell

THERAPEUTIC COURTS DIRECTOR

Eileen Logsdon

716.689.4255

VETERAN'S COORDINATOR

Tim Logsdon

716.689.4255 / 716.689.4201

BUFFALO VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

50 DELAWARE AVENUE • BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

COURT:

Hon. Robert T. Russell, Jr.

716.845.2623

Annie Hemphill, Conf. Secretary

716.845.2623

ahemphil@courts.state.ny.us

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COUNTY VETERANS OFFICE:

MAJ Carlos M. Benitez (Ret.)

716.858.6349

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STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE:

Tracy Kinn

716.632.4190

tkinn@veterans.state.ny.us

VETERANS CENTER:

2372 Sweet Home Road

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS:

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Carly Klein	716.857.3118	carly.klein@va.gov
Veronica Kellam	716.857.3322	veronica.kellam@va.gov

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Joe Chudoba	716.667.5219 or 716.667.5259 (Hotline)
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EDUCATION:

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Chris Krieger	888.400.3892	kkrieger@wnyheroes.org
Sergio Rodriguez	716.858.5349	Sergio.rodriguez@erie.gov
Julius Gallagher	716.854.3494	juliusgallagher@hotmail.com

FAMILY ASSISTANCE:

James Germain (Col.)	716.236.2097	james.germain@niagarafallsaf.mil
Peter Pilc	716.888.5797	Peter.pilc@us.army.mil

FOOD STAMPS:

Julie Nowak	716.858.7049
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HOUSING:

Daniel Stegeman	716.851.5254	Daniel.stegeman@va.gov
Donald Paulk	716.715.3612	DPaulk@wnyvhc.org

NAME**PHONE****EMAIL****LEGAL ASSISTANCE:**

Call the Bar Association of Erie County's Lawyer Referral and Information Service at 852-3100. Please identify yourself as a Veteran.

MEDICAID/PUBLIC ASSISTANCE:

Debbie May	716.845.6295	mayd3@erie.gov
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MENTOR COORDINATOR:

Jack O'Connor	716.858.7345	oconnorj@erie.gov
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POLICE ISSUES:

Jason Jaskula	716.862.7928	jason.jaskula@va.gov
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SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY:

Janet McClain	716.886.1242	
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VETERANS DISABILITY:

Timothy Philo	716.857.3315	Timothy.Philo1@va.gov
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DISABILITY BENEFITS:

Tracy Kinn	716.632.4190	tkinn@veterans.state.ny.us
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Luis Rodriguez	716.857.3346	luis.rodriguez1@va.gov

TRANSPORTATION:

Any available mentor

Publication produced by the Bar Association of Erie County's Committee on Veterans' and Service-Members' Legal Issues which creates a network of lawyers knowledgeable in veteran and service members' law and produces programs and publishes articles to keep attorneys abreast of relevant legal issues. The committee also coordinates outreach to increase awareness of legal issues particular to veterans and service members.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joseph D. Morath, Jr. and David J. State, Co-Chairs

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Jennifer P. Stergion, Founder

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BAR ASSOCIATION
OF ERIE COUNTY

438 MAIN STREET, SIXTH FLOOR
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202
716.852.8687

For an electronic copy of this publication, please visit www.eriebar.org
Also visit us on:



Linked 





Addition to the book 6/2014

Disabled American Veterans
VA Regional Office
130 S. Elmwood Avenue, Suite 620
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 857-3354
<http://www.dav.org/veterans/>
DAV activities:

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government.
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically.
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government.
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level Departments and local chapters.
- Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.