

Your contribution will really help elderly people live better lives

The people we help have nowhere else to turn. Baffled by the legal system, taken advantage of by unscrupulous landlords, abused, or unaware of their health care rights, over 1,200 elderly come to us for help every year and we turn away scores for lack of resources. We are often the last chance for our clients to save a home or get proper medical care.

Unfortunately, the poor economy hits those on fixed incomes especially hard. Health, welfare, and aging programs are likely to face substantial cuts this year. We anticipate suspension of the Supplemental Security Income cost of living increase and deep cuts to the Medi-Cal program, including the termination of dental services.

We ask your help in continuing to help San Francisco's elderly maintain a decent quality of life.



Our staff of four attorneys and three paralegals provides legal advice, referrals, and representation to San Francisco residents age sixty and older.

LAE, a non-profit organization, provides free legal service to San Francisco elders. We receive ongoing funding from the Department of Aging & Adult Services and the Mayor's Office of Community Development, both of the City & County of San Francisco; the Legal Services Trust Fund, State Bar of California; the Equal Access to Justice Fund, State of California; and private donors.



When only legal aid can help... Legal Assistance to the Elderly steps up

LAE

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Ed Burnett is living on Social Security and is partially disabled. Sonny, Ed's adult son, had taken a wrong turn, and since his release from prison two years before had become an addict. He became increasingly abusive to Ed and one night Sonny kicked Ed's door down and clubbed and punched him to the ground while screaming for money. Sonny was arrested that night, but Ed knew he'd be back.

LAE attorneys successfully petitioned the court for a three-year restraining order to keep Sonny away from Ed. Ed later discovered Sonny had been jailed for possession of firearms. Since 1977, LAE has helped thousands of older people confronted with crises including elder abuse, housing and health care issues, and denial of government benefits. LAE is the only legal services provider in San Francisco that deals exclusively with seniors and their specific needs, including assistance in their own languages.

In 1984, Bernice, who was in her 70s, executed a quitclaim deed to her son John for the duplex she owned and lived in, giving him her share of the property in the belief that John would better be able to care for her needs. But in 1991, based upon an erroneous diagnosis of Alzheimer's in Bernice, John moved Bernice out of her home against her will and into a run-down board-and-care facility. LAE attorneys intervened and were able to get Bernice out of the facility and back into her home.

By 2001, Bernice was in her 80s. John went to court and filed an action to partition Bernice's interest in the property. Once again L.A.E. intervened, and while John's partition action was granted, LAE attorneys helped Bernice obtain \$400,000, enough to care for her for the rest of her life. Whether it's getting a restraining order to stop elder abuse, fighting an unlawful eviction, or joining a nationwide class action lawsuit to stop unfair health benefit cut-offs, LAE has been there for our elder parents, relatives, and friends in their time of legal need.

Thanks to people like you we helped over 1,200 people last year

Who we help:

- Tenants threatened with eviction, illegal rent increases, or other landlord problems.
- Homeowners facing foreclosure or other threats to ownership.
- Elders experiencing problems with Social Security eligibility or other assistance benefits.
- Elders experiencing or being threatened with physical, financial, or emotional abuse.
- Frail elders having problems with skilled nursing facilities or other long term care issues.
- Elders without other options who need help creating a simple will or planning for future disability.
- Consumers and others with a variety of legal issues.

