



Wayne State University Law School Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic

INFORMATION ABOUT LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic's goals are to:

- Provide upper-level law students an opportunity to engage in client centered lawyering, while learning about many areas of law on a very practical basis.
- Teach students to identify real-life legal issues in client matters and effectively engage in problem solving, strategy building and case management.
- Allow students to effectively demonstrate the analytical and communication skills needed for client representation.
- Promote understanding of the intersection of stress, health, legal problems (social determinants of health) and solutions and how they affect individuals currently seeking cancer treatment and legal representation.
- Encourage students to draft effective and thorough legal memos, client correspondence, file entries, advocacy letters and pre-hearing memos as their caseload directs.
- Encourage upper-level students to be introspective and reflective about identifying their own areas of excellence, growth and begin to form their professional identity.
- Offer qualifying Karmanos patients free legal services in the areas of insurance, housing, employment, long-term planning and public benefits to relieve stress and impact their quality of life.

Previous matters handled

LAPC's services vary from client to client and provide new challenges and learning opportunities for upper-level students. Previous matters handled have involved the following:

Insurance

- Negotiating with insurance debt holders and speaking with hospital staff to remove over \$3,000 from "bad debt."
- Helping a client facing "financial toxicity" by understanding her right to apply for and receive appropriate medical insurance.
- Representing a client in a hearing before a judge under the Affordable Care Act to allow the client to appeal and win a favorable decision so he could reapply for subsidized health insurance.

Housing

- Avoided a client's eviction by advocating for the client with his current landlord and negotiating moving terms.
- Reviewed and explained the terms of a client's lease so she could understand her right to terminate the lease (without penalty) based on her current medical condition.

Employment

- Discovered a \$5,000 benefit that a client was entitled to have under her employee benefits and helped her to secure that benefit check.

- Appealed a denial of disability benefits under an employee's plan and was successful in helping the client collect over \$47,000 in a cash benefit.
- Advocated on behalf of a recently unemployed client with her human resource department and confirmed that she had a \$150,000 life insurance policy that was, in fact, current and fully paid.

Life Planning

- Allowed a client to fulfill her wish of leaving her home to her granddaughter by drafting and executing a deed that allowed such a transaction.
- Provided peace of mind to a client who wanted her brother to be able to make voice her medical and financial decisions, if she was deemed unable to do so, by drafting and executing her Durable Power of Attorney for Financial and Legal Matters and Patient Advocate Designation.
- Calmed a client who worried about her young children, if something should happen to her, by drafting and executing an Appointment of Guardianship for Minor Children.

Public Benefits

- Successfully appealed several denials of Social Security Disability benefits at hearings before Administrative Law Judges to recover thousands of dollars in benefits to clients.
- Helped a client not only receive her Food Assistance benefit but also apply to several programs to assist with reducing her other monthly bills.
- Advocated on behalf of a client to eliminate his \$30,000 overpayment due to Social Security.

Contact

For prospective clients: lawclinics@wayne.edu or (313) 577-4015

For existing clients: lapc@wayne.edu or (313) 577-9521