

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA PARAPROFESSIONALS PROPOSAL

THE PROBLEM:

Too many Californians can't afford basic legal services.



Percentage of Californians who experienced at least one civil legal problem last year



Percentage of legal problems for which Californians received no or inadequate help

WHAT COULD HELP:

Licensing a new group of legal practitioners

Have you ever been seen by a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant instead of a doctor? Not every health problem requires a doctor, and not every legal problem requires a lawyer. These new legal professionals could provide more affordable options for handling routine matters in specific practice areas, such as family law and housing.

These new legal practitioners could help you:



Clear a debt record



Resolve a wage dispute



Get a divorce

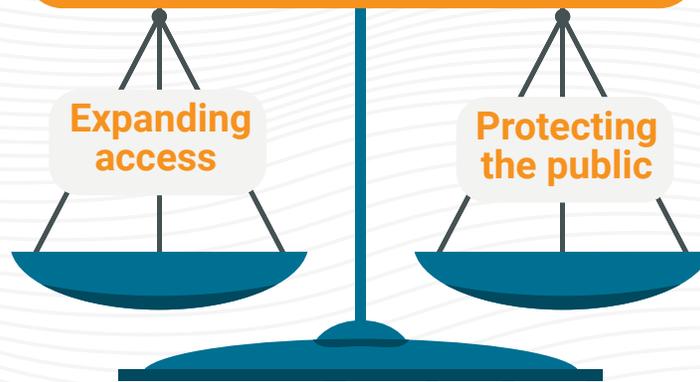


Expunge a criminal record



Resolve a landlord-tenant dispute

The State Bar's proposal balances



Who could be licensed?

- › Law school graduates, paralegals, and legal document assistants
- › Applicants may use previous education and training to satisfy requirements
- › Affordable education options through community colleges
- › Rigorous education, experience, and testing requirements
- › Providers must pass moral character screening and exams

What could they do?

- › Help people with areas of law where many have no help today: family law, landlord tenant, collections, wage and hour
- › For tasks allowed, no attorney supervision required
- › Can partner with lawyers to deliver services seamlessly
- › Specifically excludes work too complex or risky for nonlawyers
- › Providers held to high ethical standards of professional conduct

What measures would protect consumers?

- › Providers required to report the fees they are charging, something attorneys do not have to do
- › \$100,000 bond requirement
- › Client restitution fund
- › Continuing education requirements
- › Disclosures of practice limitations and free legal help options

We want to hear from you. Weigh in now.



The State Bar
of California