

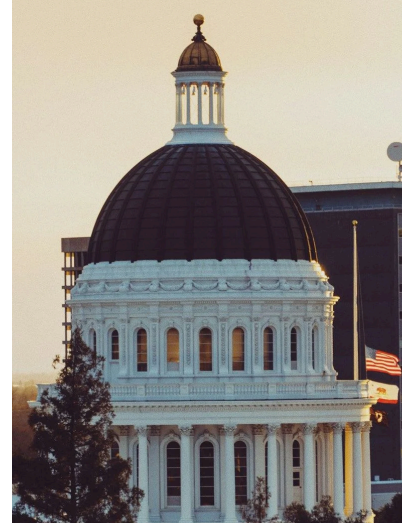
CALIFORNIA LEGAL AID INTERAGENCY ROUNDTABLE (CLAIR)



Co-conveners—the [State Bar of California](#), the [Legal Aid Association of California \(LAAC\)](#), and the [California Access to Justice Commission \(CalATJ\)](#)—are prioritizing CLAIR to strengthen and coordinate legal services and agency offerings to ensure those most in need have access to vital resources and protections.

OVERVIEW

Drawing from the federal Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable (LAIR), the California Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable (CLAIR) launched in Fall 2024 with about two dozen agencies meeting in San Francisco to promote state agency-legal aid partnership by exploring collaborative solutions on topics such as homelessness prevention and consumer protection. Guided by working group meetings, gatherings with legal aid, and larger convenings, CLAIR is connecting agencies with one another and with legal aid organizations so that they can extend more resources, tools, and information—especially to underserved people in California.¹



JOINING CLAIR TO DEEPEN PUBLIC SERVICES FOR PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA

By joining CLAIR, state agencies can tap into legal aid services through replicable partnership models across any agency. Legal aid nonprofits provide free civil legal help to eligible clients, including seniors, veterans, and others. They address critical needs including housing, public benefits, health care, education, immigration, and more.² Specifically, legal aid can educate agencies about ground-level issues while, in turn, agencies keep legal aid current on policy developments—enabling both to rely on expertise and fill capacity gaps. Through CLAIR listening sessions, participants gain on-the-ground legal detail on select topics and connect with one another to streamline overlapping projects. Participating in CLAIR provides opportunities to learn from and add to existing collaborations and partnership models including through the following examples.



Example One: Co-Developing Resources and Feedback Mechanisms

State agencies and legal aid nonprofits leverage their complementary strengths—broad reach and community connections—by:

- Publishing easy-to-understand fact sheets with legal aid feedback on reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities in housing, such as exceptions to no-pet policies for emotional support animals (Civil Rights Department).
- Hosting a webpage highlighting available legal services for older adults regarding housing, combatting consumer fraud, and overcoming elder abuse (Department of Aging).
- Collaborating with legal advocacy organizations to develop a guide clarifying housing-related requirements and featuring tenant advocacy resources (Department of Housing and Community Development).



Example Two: Outsourcing Services and Funding Partnerships

California agencies fund legal aid to support specific aspects of the agency's work such as:

- Contracting with a large legal aid nonprofit for approximately \$10 million per year to provide advocacy and support for individuals and families to navigate regional centers—local agencies serving people with Intellectual and Development Disabilities—and other public benefits programs (Department of Developmental Services).
- Funding more than 150 nonprofit immigration legal services organizations, including legal aid partners, to provide immigration legal aid and community education—focusing on immigrant inclusion and integration efforts (Department of Social Services).



Example Three: Strategic Input via Regular Convenings and Referrals

Agency-legal aid meetings and connection points provide strategic input channels such as:

- Regular regional gatherings of legal aid and agency advocates to discuss and address consumer protection around auto sales fraud, contracting scams, and predatory practices (California Department of Justice).
- Collecting up-to-date legal aid resources and referrals to connect discharged patients statewide to benefits and housing to support reintegration (Department of State Hospitals).

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

For State Agencies

- Join CLAIR to discuss with agencies how the work of legal aid overlaps substantively and geographically with other agencies.
- Build interagency relationships that can leverage the work of legal aid to advance agency missions.
- Establish team member and senior leadership buy-in to propel lasting coordination.
- Participate in CLAIR sessions to share and receive information on trends and best practices.

For Legal Aid Organizations

- Contact CLAIR co-conveners to conduct initial conversations about agency programs to understand priorities and capacities, and to establish contacts across subject areas and regions.
- Consider agency strategic planning processes, focusing on complementary offerings.
- Frame joint efforts around helping agencies achieve their missions.

Contact Information

To join CLAIR and learn more, please contact Program Director Elizabeth Hom at Elizabeth.Hom@calbar.ca.gov.

¹ As of March 2026, CLAIR working group agencies include the Departments of Aging, Social Services, Developmental Services, Housing and Community Development, State Hospitals, Justice, and the Civil Rights Department. Other state agencies are invited to attend CLAIR events and participate in collaborations.

² For a list of State Bar-funded legal aid nonprofits, see grantees list [here](#). Coordinating with legal aid nonprofits provides public entities expertise to address a range of civil legal problems low-income people face. State Bar of California: 2024 California Justice Gap Study (June 2025), <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/california-justice-gap-study>.