



Legal Clinic for Pro Se Litigants in the SDNY

ANNUAL SNAPSHOT: 10/1/2016 – 9/30/2017

Overview

During this year we:

- Were contacted by **923** individuals.
- Assisted **874** individuals with **915** separate matters (some individuals have more than one matter).
- Worked with **447** individuals more than once.
- Held **2437** total consultations, averaging about **203** consultations per month; **71** of our consultations were held in White Plains.
- Provided translator or interpreter services to **31** individuals.
- Sought to divert **280** matters to appropriate fora or services, such as state courts, other federal courts, administrative agencies, law enforcement agencies, legal services organizations and/or social services organizations, or advised client not to proceed. We are aware of only **21** instances where an individual whom we advised to not file suit in this court or to not further pursue a filed suit in this court did so contrary to our advice.
- Were unable to assist **41** litigants due to a legal conflict or otherwise (litigant was incarcerated, was represented by counsel, was a corporation, had questions about a suit pending in another forum, or could not be reached after the initial intake despite multiple attempts). We are continuing to try to reach **eight** individuals who first contacted us at the end of the year.
- Secured full representation pro bono counsel from **8** different firms and organizations in **27** cases.
- Secured limited scope pro bono counsel from **22** different firms and organizations (including NYLAG) to assist with depositions in **32** cases, although in **three** such matters the client declined to work with counsel, and in **one** such matter, counsel withdrew from the representation before the depositions were held.
- Secured limited scope pro bono counsel from **4** different firms and organizations (including NYLAG) to assist with mediation in **12** cases, although in **two** of these cases, counsel was unable to reach the client and enter into a retainer agreement, and in **one** case, counsel withdrew from the representation before the mediation was held. This figure does not include the **six** matters where deposition counsel expanded the representation to include assisting with settlement or the **eleven** matters where we assisted with settlement efforts behind the scenes.
- Facilitated a settlement in **24** cases.
- Secured limited scope pro bono counsel to assist a pro se plaintiff with seeking temporary injunctive relief in a civil rights case; secured limited scope pro bono counsel to assist a pro se defendant in a labor law case in connection with an application for relief from a judgment under Rule 60(b); and secured pro bono counsel to assist a Clinic client in connection with an appeal to the Second Circuit involving special education law.
- Referred **76** clients to other legal or non-legal service providers to assist those individuals with matters beyond those raised by their pending SDNY cases; this service is in addition to assisting those individuals with their pending SDNY cases.
- Worked with volunteers from **24** firms on intake and drafting litigation documents; and with **42** student, recent law graduate and other interns on legal research and other projects.



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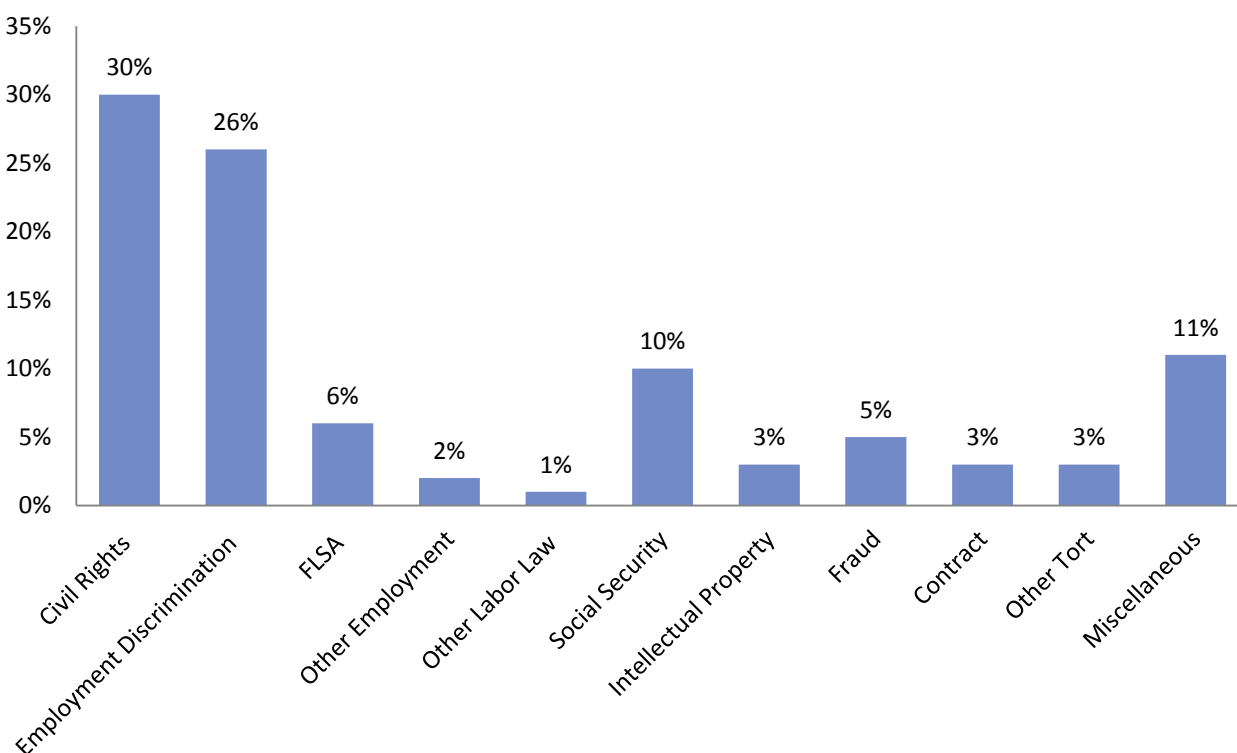
Levels of Service Provided

740 matters received our basic level of service, **advice and counsel**, meaning that we discussed the case and provided information or legal advice, which could include referrals to other legal or non-legal service providers (up from 290 such matters last quarter).

127 matters received an intermediate level of service, **brief services**, meaning that we helped for a limited amount of time with specific matter-related projects, such as research, drafting or strategy (up from 59 such matters last quarter).

48 matters received our highest level of service, **extensive services**, meaning that we spent over 10 hours on matter-related projects (the same types of projects covered by “brief services”) (up from 22 such matters last quarter).

Basis for Claims



Types of Cases

Jurisdictional Basis:

- **92%** of clients filed cases involving **federal question jurisdiction**
- **8%** of clients filed cases involving **diversity jurisdiction**

Pro Se Party:

- **86%** of clients were **plaintiffs**
- **14%** of clients were **defendants**

Court Location:

- **92%** of clients with filed cases are litigating in **Manhattan**
- **8%** of clients with filed cases are litigating in **White Plains**

Referral Source:

- **17%** of clients were referred to the clinic by a **judge** (**57%** of these referrals were made by court order and **43%** at a conference)
- **57%** of clients were referred to the clinic by the **Pro Se Intake Unit**;
- **4%** of clients learned of the clinic through a **friend or family**
- **3%** of clients learned of the clinic through the **pro se information package**;
- **12%** of clients learned of the clinic **through the court's website or NYLAG's website**; and
- **7%** of clients were **self-referred or referred by another source**

Location of Service:

- **94%** of clients were seen in **Manhattan**
- **6%** of clients were seen in **White Plains**

Demographic Data

Employment Status

3%	Student
13%	Part-Time
26%	Full-Time
45%	Unemployed
13%	Retired

Highest Education Level

3%	8 th Grade or Less
10%	Some High School
14%	High School Diploma
8%	GED
16%	Vocational/Some College
28%	College Diploma
21%	Graduate Degree