



Host Site: Kansas Legal Services

Topic of Project: Elderly and Family Law

Location: Wichita, KS

Description of Fellow Project:

The Rural Summer Legal Corps Student Fellow will assist in underserved, rural Kansas counties to develop targeted outreach for providing service. The outreach will be designed to provide legal assistance for low-income elderly individuals and families needing legal assistance in family law issues.

The Fellow will first help assess needs by county. Applicant requests for legal services will be reviewed by county for the prior five years to assess any specific local issues. Next, local resources by counties will be developed and mapped, including venues that can be used for legal education, outreach/direct service, and legal self-help sites. This groundwork will allow us to target an outreach program using the fellow and will be used to carry out the KLS Strategic Plan and the 2021 Private Attorney Involvement plan.

Working with KLS attorneys, the Fellow will assist in current outreach clinics and direct service for the elderly in group settings, as well as assist victims and families in cases of domestic abuse and other areas of family law. The Fellow will draft pleadings, meet with clients, and accompany the attorneys to court. As a way to expand on this work, the Fellow will create a how-to guide on conducting a local needs assessment and assessing local resources that can be used by KLS staff for other counties.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

Bilingual language skills in Spanish and English are preferred, but not required. A car is not required, but a valid driver's license is necessary. Housing assistance will be provided, defined as helping the Fellow search for affordable housing in their service area.

