

Southern Nevada

SLP

SENIOR LAW PROGRAM

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

*A year of shared purpose.*





# Dear friends and supporters,

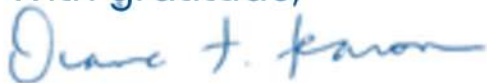
As I look back on the past year, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the collective effort that defines our community. Time and again, I have witnessed the power of what we can accomplish when we move forward with a shared goal.

This year, this shared commitment allowed us to reach new heights and break new ground at Senior Law Program. We welcomed over 3,000 seniors through our doors that were seeking stability, safety, and a trusted advocate. It inspired the launch of our in-person Ask-A-Lawyer sessions, providing immediate guidance to those with pressing legal worries. And it drove us to expand our reach intentionally, bringing vital services to rural communities in Southern Nevada, because support should not depend on your zip code.

Each step forward was made possible by the dedication of our team, the compassion of our pro bono volunteers, and the unwavering belief of supporters like you. You have turned our shared purpose into tangible hope.

Thank you for helping us help more seniors. Together, we are building a stronger, more just community for every senior we serve.

With gratitude,



**Diane Fearon**

Executive Director

Southern Nevada Senior Law Program







Southern Nevada Senior Law Program's mission is to **ensure justice for seniors with the greatest economic and social need.**

Since 1978, we have been empowering seniors who are 60 years or older with **no-cost, quality legal services** in Southern Nevada. The cornerstone of our mission is **helping our clients live with honor and dignity.**

# *Our Year in Review*

IN 2025, SLP SUPPORTED

**3,040**

OLDER NEVADANS THROUGH  
DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES

**82**

PRO BONO ATTORNEY  
VOLUNTEERS



**5,934**

REACHED THROUGH  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**380**

IN-HOUSE  
WORKSHOP  
PARTICIPANTS

**710**

PRO BONO  
HOURS

**315**

HCPOA MOBILE  
WORKSHOP  
PARTICIPANTS



**1,834**

ESTATE PLANNING

**462**

EVICTIONS  
HOUSING

**283**

SCAMS  
FRAUD  
CONTRACT DISPUTE

**184**

INCOME  
PUBLIC BENEFITS

**153**

ABUSE/ EXPLOITATION

**51**

UTILITIES

**28**

CIVIL LITIGATION

**31**

GUARDIANSHIP

**81**

OTHER

(i.e. ELDER RIGHTS, NAME CHANGES, & AGE/DISABILITY)

# Mapping Our Reach

**73** AVERAGE AGE OF  
OUR CLIENTS

**34%**

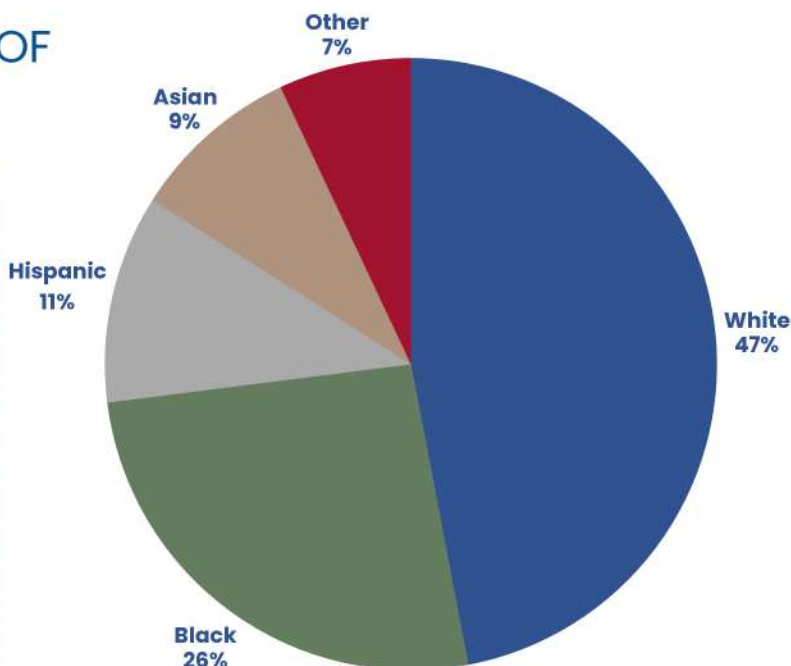
DISABLED

**15%**

VETERANS

**20%**

FOOD INSECURE



ETHNICITY OF OUR CLIENTS



**\$30,700**

AVERAGE INCOME

IN 2025, WE EXPANDED OUR  
REACH TO:

- PAHRUMP, NV
- MESQUITE, NV
- LINCOLN COUNTY





This year, our shared purpose was clear: **to stand united with and for our senior community.**

Together, we provided not just legal services, but **a shared commitment to dignity.** This collective focus is how we make a real-world difference, **one senior at a time.**



# 2025 Highlights



## **Dramatically Expanded Our Direct Legal Services.**

We reached significantly more seniors in need this year. By streamlining our intake process and deepening community outreach, we achieved a 36% increase in seniors served through direct representation. This surge means more vulnerable community members received critical assistance with housing, consumer fraud, benefits, and other vital legal services.

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**Supercharged Our Pro Bono Power.** Our mission is powered by partnership! This year, we grew our league of legal heroes, achieving a 26% increase in active pro bono attorneys. With approximately 82 dedicated lawyers now volunteering their expertise, we've unlocked a tremendous new capacity to serve, ensuring more seniors than ever get the expert, compassionate counsel they deserve.

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## **Launched Our 'Ask-A-Lawyer' Sessions Across the Las Vegas Valley.**

We brought the consultation to the conversation! This year, we launched our new Ask-A-Lawyer program, where a dedicated staff attorney holds monthly free, 30-minute, one-on-one consultations at specific senior centers in Las Vegas. By planting this regular resource in five senior centers across the valley, we're making preliminary legal guidance more accessible and approachable for seniors right in their own communities.



**Hosted Our 4th Annual 'Salute to Senior Advocates' Event.** *We turned the spotlight on local legends!* Our fourth annual celebration was a resounding success, honoring the profound impact of Justice Patricia Lee, Mayor Shelley Berkley, and Judge Betsy Kolkoski. With over 260 participants, this inspiring event not only celebrates champions for seniors but also fuels the community support that makes our daily work possible.

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**Extended Our Reach to Rural Nevada.** We believe geography should not be a barrier to justice. This year, we intentionally expanded our map, bringing our trusted workshops and services to seniors in Pahrump, Mesquite, and visited Lincoln County. We are on the path, laid out in a two-year plan, to achieve equitable access where rural seniors are no longer isolated from legal resources available in the urban core.



**Forged Powerful New Community Alliances.** This year, we solidified essential partnerships that embed our services directly into the fabric of our community. For instance, crucial funding from the VGK Foundation has empowered our community-focused programs, while our partnership with Nevada HAND allows us to bring HCPOA workshops directly to their senior living properties. We've also extended our reach through consistent workshops with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District and our established Ask-A-Lawyer clinics in senior centers. Each alliance is strategic, allowing us to weave a stronger, more accessible web of support that meets seniors exactly where they are.

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These stories of change are not ours alone;  
they are **co-authored with every client who  
trusted us and every partner who made the  
work possible.**

We share these glimpses into our clients'  
journeys to honor their resilience and to  
**illustrate the tangible difference our  
collective support makes** in Southern Nevada.





# 73-year-old Susan\*, a woman battling bone cancer, was abandoned by her husband of over 50 years when she needed him most.

When Susan was due to be released from a rehabilitation center, her husband refused to let her return home and told her she was "on her own."

Fortunately, her brother intervened to place her in a group home. While heavily medicated during her illness, Susan was made to sign unknown paperwork that placed the couple's jointly-owned home into a Trust established solely in her husband's name. **This left her with no significant assets and only her Social Security income to pay for her care.** Because of this, she thought contacting a lawyer was out of her reach until Susan found Senior Law Program and asked us for help.

We immediately coordinated with our Pro Bono team to secure a family law attorney to represent her in a divorce, which she adamantly wanted. We also obtained the Trust document to assess the legality of the transfer of the home and to protect Susan's rightful share of the marital asset.

**For vulnerable seniors, sudden abandonment and the potential loss of lifelong assets is not just a financial crisis but a devastating emotional betrayal.**

Sometimes, securing their rights is literally a matter of safety and survival.

Thanks to the intervention of Senior Law Program, Susan now has a dedicated advocate working to restore her legal and financial rights, ensuring she is not left alone to face this crisis.

**Senior Law Program plays a crucial role in protecting seniors from exploitation and abandonment**, ensuring they have access to justice and the resources they need to live with security and dignity.

*\*Name changed for privacy.*





## 77-year-old widower Andres\*, was already managing life alone when his trusted car's check engine light came on.

Like many of us would, he took it to a repair shop for what he hoped would be a simple fix. But their careless work made things worse. They installed wrong parts that caused additional damage.

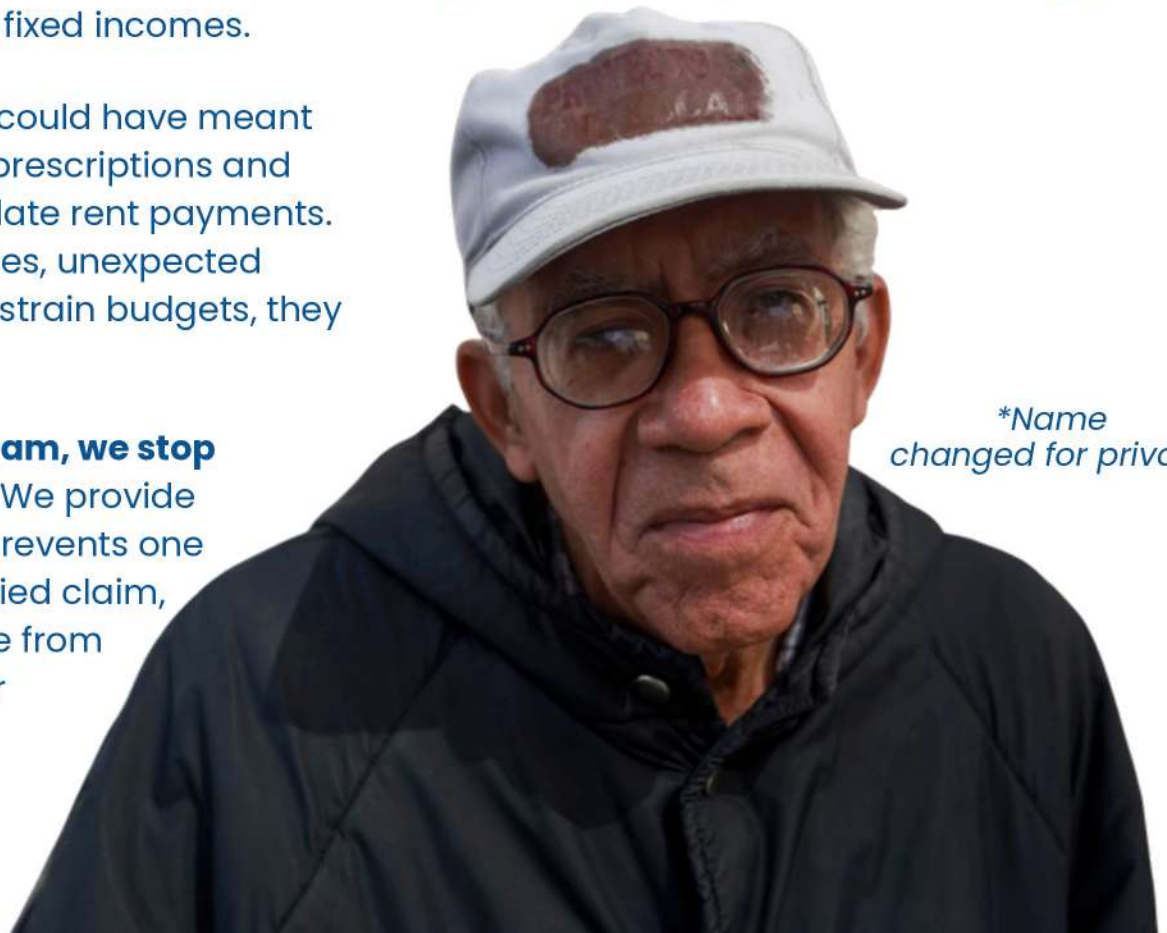
Facing a staggering \$11,000 repair estimate (more than double his car's value) from the dealership, Andres went back to the original shop. **They flatly refused to take responsibility, leaving him without transportation for crucial doctor visits and errands.**

Stuck between impossible choices, Andres had to finance a replacement vehicle, adding an unplanned \$300+ monthly payment to his already tight, fixed budget. That's when he turned to Southern Nevada Senior Law Program (SLP) for help. SLP immediately challenged the company's denial, presenting irrefutable evidence of their mistake, and the financial harm it caused. The company offered a \$20,500 settlement; funds Andres used to pay down the loan on his replacement vehicle.

Andres' story isn't unique. **Every day, older adults often face unfair battles, hidden fees, denied claims, and corporate negligence, that leave them financially vulnerable.** Many older Nevadans face these problems alone, unable to afford legal help on limited and fixed incomes.

That extra expense could have meant choosing between prescriptions and groceries or risking late rent payments. For seniors like Andres, unexpected expenses don't just strain budgets, they threaten stability.

**At Senior Law Program, we stop this domino effect.** We provide legal support that prevents one bad repair, one denied claim, or one unfair charge from costing seniors their housing, health, or independence.



*\*Name changed for privacy.*



# 68-year-old Martin\*, a disabled Veteran and beloved Las Vegas street performer, faced eviction and potential homelessness while recovering from a double amputation in the hospital.

Fortunately, Martin came to Senior Law Program asking for assistance.

Depending on his retirement and the money he earns singing on the streets of Las Vegas, Martin is known for donating his extra earnings to help other veterans and the unhoused. **While hospitalized for a medical emergency that resulted in the loss of both legs, he was served with multiple eviction notices:** a 30-day "no-cause" notice and a 7-day "pay or quit" notice.

Senior Law Program prepared a Tenant Answer that successfully got the 30-day notice dismissed, as Martin had a valid lease. For the 7-day notice, SLP helped him apply for emergency rental assistance through Clark County and prepared another Tenant Answer, ensuring his right to explain his circumstances in court. **SLP also provided crucial guidance to prepare Martin for his hearing, which calmed his nerves and led to the eviction case being dismissed entirely.**

For seniors and vulnerable veterans, stable housing is the foundation for health and dignity. **Sometimes, preventing an unlawful eviction is literally what allows someone to survive and rebuild their life.**

Thanks to the comprehensive legal assistance from Senior Law Program, Martin's eviction was dismissed, his housing was secured, and he avoided a devastating eviction on his record. He is now able to focus on his recovery and return to doing what he loves: sharing his amazing talent with the city.

**Senior Law Program plays a crucial role in protecting tenants' rights, preventing homelessness, and ensuring that seniors and veterans have a fair chance to defend their homes in times of crisis.**

*\*Name changed for privacy.*





## **87-year-old Eleanor\*, a widow after nearly 70 years of marriage, was wrongfully denied her Social Security survivor benefits for three years.**

Born in China, Eleanor married her husband there in 1955 before emigrating to the United States, where the husband ran a successful business until retiring in Las Vegas. After he passed away in 2022, she promptly applied for the widow's benefits she was entitled to.

**Despite providing proof of her marriage, her application was repeatedly and inexplicably denied by the Social Security Administration, likely due to confusion over her Chinese-language marriage certificate.**

After three years of uncertainty, Eleanor found out about Senior Law Program. Our attorney meticulously assembled a powerful appeal, gathering decades of evidence, from immigration documents and wedding photos to joint financial records, to prove her marriage beyond doubt. The attorney submitted a comprehensive 50-page appeal with exhibits directly to Social Security.

For a senior on a fixed income, **denied benefits are not just a financial setback; they can mean the difference between stability and hardship.** Sometimes, securing these earned benefits is a matter of dignity and survival.

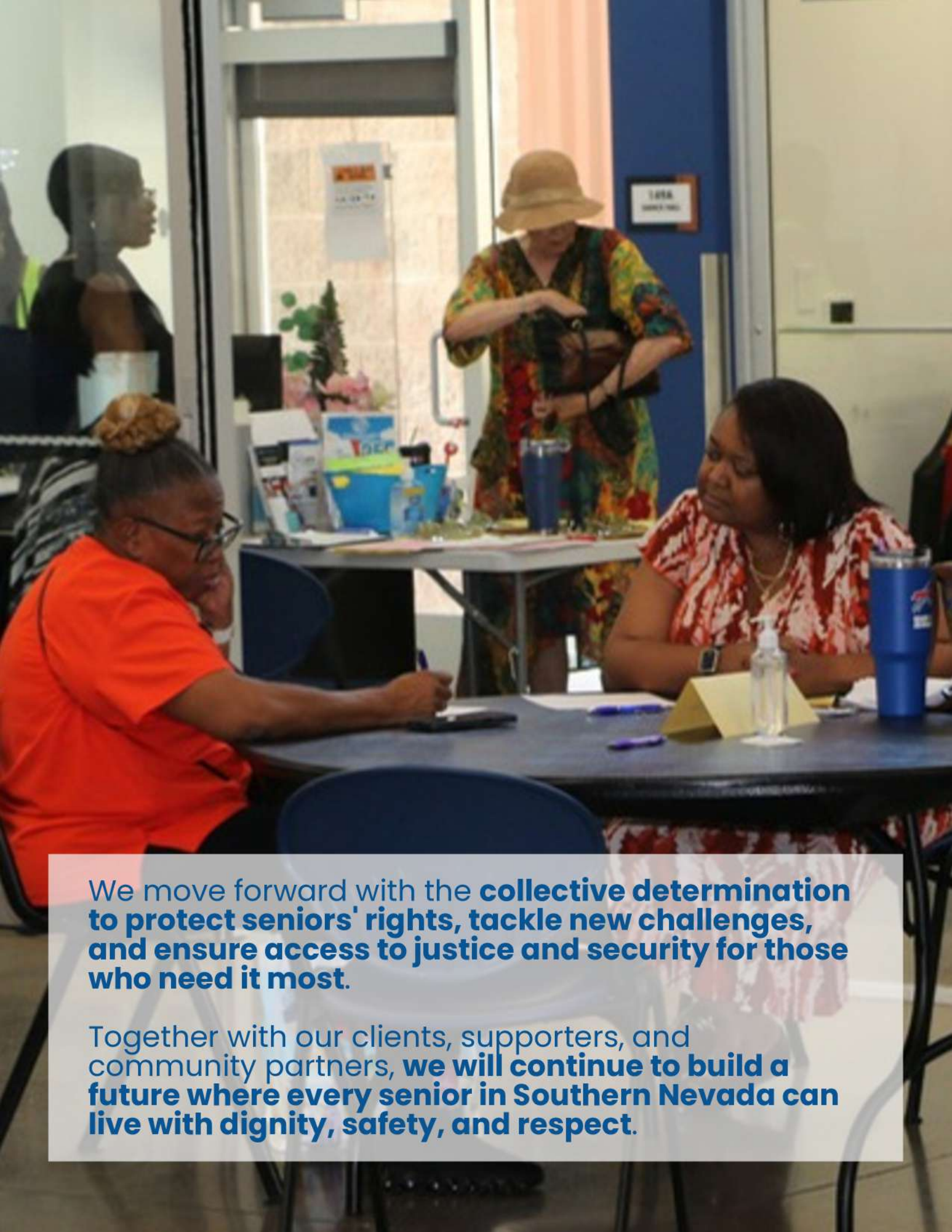


Thanks to the dedicated advocacy of Senior Law Program, **Eleanor's three-year ordeal ended within two weeks.** Her widow's benefits were finally approved, securing her financial future.

Senior Law Program plays a crucial role in **cutting through bureaucratic barriers, advocating for seniors' rights, and ensuring they receive the vital benefits** they have earned and deserve.

*\*Name changed for privacy.*





We move forward with the **collective determination to protect seniors' rights, tackle new challenges, and ensure access to justice and security for those who need it most.**

Together with our clients, supporters, and community partners, **we will continue to build a future where every senior in Southern Nevada can live with dignity, safety, and respect.**

# Looking Ahead

**EXPAND** our reach to serve more at-risk older adults by broadening our community education efforts and increasing direct legal assistance, with **dedicated focus on extending services into rural communities and diverse cultural neighborhoods across Southern Nevada.**

**DEEPEN** our impact by strengthening our Pro Bono Program, **recruiting and supporting more attorney partners** to increase the number of seniors we can help together, and **successfully placing more cases** with this vital network.

**SUSTAIN** and grow our mission by **securing new partnerships and financial resources** that allow us to add capacity, innovate our services, and empower more seniors through no-cost, quality legal assistance.

**HARNESS** technology to bridge the justice gap by **exploring and implementing secure, user-friendly tools that help seniors in remote areas connect with our services** and navigate legal processes with greater confidence and understanding.

**STRENGTHEN** the continuum of care by **creating a more robust internal referral system and collaborative case management approach**, ensuring clients with intersecting legal, social, and health needs are fully supported through partnerships with social service agencies.

2026 Goals



Southern Nevada

**SLP**

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SENIOR LAW PROGRAM

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