



## South Carolina Legal Services

### Case Priorities for 2009

#### Consumer/Finance

- **Bankruptcy/Debtor Relief**
  - Chapter 7 & 13 to save a home, car, or medically necessary equipment or where there is substantial harassment from creditors affecting the mental and/or physical well-being of the client.
- **Collection (Including Repossession/Deficiency/Garnishment)**
  - Where the client has been served with pleadings or property has been repossessed
  - Where the client disputes the debt or the amount of debt
- **Contracts/Warranties**
- **Collection Practices/Creditor Harassment**
- **Predatory Lending Practices (Not Mortgages)**
- **Loans/Installment Purchase (Not Collections)**
- **Public Utilities**
- **Unfair Sales and Practices**
- **Other Consumer/Finance**

#### Education

- **Discipline (Including Expulsion and Suspension)**
- **Special Education/Learning Disabilities**
- **Access (Including Bilingual, Residency, Testing and Enrollment)**
- **Vocational Education**
- **Student Financial Aid**
- **Other Education – Includes School Fees and Charges**

## Employment

- **Employment Discrimination** - Representation at administrative level (informal hearing with employer) and representation at court level where the administrative process has been exhausted and a Right to Sue Letter issued by EEOC
- **Wage Claims** - Representation at administrative level (informal hearing with employer) and representation at court level where the administrative process has been exhausted
- **EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit)**
- **Taxes (Not EITC)**
- **Employee Rights**
- **Agricultural Worker Issues (Not Wage Claims/FLSA Issues)**
- **Other Employment (including wrongful termination)** - Representation at administrative level (informal hearing with employer) and representation at court level where the administrative process has been exhausted.

## Family

- **Adoption** - where an increased economic benefit can be obtained
- **Visitation** - only when non-custodial parent is current in child support and has no criminal record and where there is obvious benefit to the child
- **Custody**- defend already filed custody actions only when doing so is in the best interest of the child(ren)
- **Custody-initiate:**
  - Cases where a minor has been abused, neglected, or threatened with harm
    - (i.e. "at risk") (non DSS involvement)
  - Cases where the non-custodial parent has removed the child and refuses to
    - return the child to the custodian
  - Custodian needs an order to prevent eviction from public housing
  - Custodian needs an order to deal with school/medical issues
  - Custodian needs an order when a parent is enlisting in the US Military
  - Third party custody intervention actions to keep child out of foster care
- **Divorce/Separation/Annulment** - initiate physical cruelty divorce
- **Name Change** - obtain or amend birth certificate where economic benefit can be gained
- **Guardianship and conservatorship issues**
- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Other Family:** Contempt - Rule to show cause
  - Defend when defendant is not in willful contempt
  - File contempt actions to enforce Family Court orders which are not enforceable by the Clerk of Court

## Health

- **Medicaid**
  - Representation at the administrative level and in court regarding the termination, overpayment, or denial of or other limitation of medical services.
  - Representation in collection actions regarding the Medicaid process.
- **Medicare**
  - Representation at the administrative level and in District Court regarding the termination overpayment, or denial of Medicare process;
  - Representation in collection actions regarding the Medicare process
- **Government Children’s Health Insurance Programs**
- **Home and Community Based Care**
- **Private Health Insurance**
- **Long Term Health Care Facilities**
- **State and Local Health**
- **Other Health –**
  - Nursing home and home health care issues
  - Mental health care issues
  - Basic health care services to medically indigent

## Housing

- **Federally Subsidized Housing Rights (Section 8)**
  - Evictions
  - Access to quality housing
  - Obtaining necessary repairs to rented housing
  - Resolving problems with subsidized housing providers
  - Utility cutoffs/ouster
  - Security deposit returns
- **Homeownership/Real property**
  - Access to quality housing
  - Obtaining or maintaining ownership of homes or real property
- **Private Landlord/Tenant**
  - Evictions
  - Access to quality housing
  - Obtaining necessary repairs to rented housing
  - Utility cutoffs/ouster
  - Security deposit returns
- **Public Housing**
  - Evictions
  - Access to quality housing
  - Obtaining necessary repairs to rented housing
  - Resolving problems with subsidized housing providers
  - Utility cutoffs/ouster
  - Security deposit returns
- **Mobile Homes**

- **Housing Discrimination**
- **Mortgage Foreclosures**
- **Mortgage Predatory Lending/Practices**
- **Other Housing**
  - Access to quality housing
  - Resolving problems with subsidized housing providers

### Income Maintenance/Public Benefits

- **Social Security**
- **Food Stamps**
- **SSDI**
- **SSI**
- **Unemployment Compensation**
- **Veterans Benefits**
- **State and Local Income Maintenance**
- **Other income maintenance**

### Miscellaneous and Elder Law

- **Legal Assistance to Non-Profit Organizations or Group (Including Incorporation/ Dissolution)**
- **Indian/Tribal Law**
- **Wills/Estates - Drafting and Execution of Last Will & Testament**
- **Advance Directives**
  - Drafting and Execution of Power of Attorney
  - Drafting and Execution of Health Care Power of Attorney
  - Drafting and Execution of Living Will
- **Probating Estates (to include deeds of distribution)**
- **Heirs Property Issues**
- **Other Miscellaneous**
  - Provide counsel and advice in any case not specifically prohibited by LSC statute or regulations or other federal law
  - Advice and representation on federal tax issues pursuant to LITC grant
  - Community Economic Development

### Emergencies

- **SCLS can represent clients in an approved emergency in those non-priority cases that require immediate legal action to:**
  - (1) **Secure or preserve the necessities of life**
  - (2) **Protect against or eliminate a significant risk to the health or safety of the client or immediate family members, or**
  - (3) **Address other significant legal issues that arise because of new and unforeseen circumstances.**