

# Seattle Community Law Center Winter Newsletter

## Seattle Community Law Center

Social Security Advocacy for People with Disabilities who are Homeless or Low Income



### SCLC is Growing

SCLC is proud to welcome two new attorneys and a new paralegal to our growing group of advocates to start the 2019 new year.

Keep an eye out on our social media channels to see the different ways our new staff members will allow us to have an even greater reach in the community.



[facebook.com/seattlecommmlaw](https://facebook.com/seattlecommmlaw)



[instagram.com/justicebus](https://instagram.com/justicebus)

### SCLC Upcoming Events

#### Spring. Into. Action.

We are pleased to announce our 3rd annual Spring Into Action for SCLC on March 14, 2019!

Join us for a fun-filled evening to support legal advocacy for people with disabilities who are homeless or low-income and to celebrate their right to economic stability.

**Where:** The Rainier Club, The Rainier Room  
820 4th Ave Seattle, WA 98104

**When:** Thursday, March 14, 2019  
5:30-8:00pm | Special Presentation at 6:30pm

**Tickets:** \$50 - Includes appetizers & 2 Drink tickets

\*Tickets available online until March 12th

\*Tickets are also available at the event

We launched our Disabled Homeless Advocacy Project in April of 2006 when we recognized people who were homeless did not have anywhere to turn to for representation in their SSI/SSDI cases. Everyday, we work with community partners to deliver legal aid in the field – at local shelters, libraries and sites accessible to the homeless population. While there, we hear about the long and exhausting road our clients have been on fighting for and being denied access to benefits they deserve.

This is why SCLC attorneys have worked tirelessly for years to be there for clients before their housing becomes unstable and work hard for our clients' right's from the application date. A person with an attorney is allowed benefits at a rate nearly three times higher than someone without an attorney. This is why we have been working for years to responsibly grow our organization, because once your application is denied, it takes an average of 14 months for a hearing to be scheduled at Seattle's Social Security Hearings Office. For our clients that are homeless, that is another year spent outside waiting for their hearing date to arrive.

Mona\* is a young person that met with an SCLC attorney in a King County Public Library close to her house. She needed help after having received a denial of her application for benefits. After taking a fitness test at school, Mona had a headache, passed out, and was having vision problems. At the hospital she learned that she had a brain malformation that continued to get progressively worse. After this event she started to experience symptoms that prevented her from being able to keep up with school work, and she started to fall behind in college. Her symptoms were so severe that she was unable to go out of the house alone. She received help applying for benefits, but soon received a denial of her application. That's when she reached out to SCLC, in April 2018.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Mona, and to put our early advocacy to work for her. After just five months of having an SCLC advocate by her side, Mona received her first benefit check from Social Security. This will allow her to live more independently, and to contribute to her household by paying for rent and food. Eventually, Mona would like to return to community college to continue with her pre-calculus and sociology classes.

Mona gained access to her benefits because our Mobile Attorney was able to go to her and help her find a solution that prevented her from becoming homeless. She has the financial stability to pay for her next meal, a long-term solution to having a roof over her head, and access to mental and physical healthcare so she can live independently. Every time we are able to meet someone like Mona where they are, we are able to prevent another person from the harsh realities of homelessness.

### Did you know?

\$1 donated to SCLC delivers



**\$1.09 in benefits and debt relief back to the community**

## Thank you for standing with people like Mona

\*For the sake of privacy, our clients name has been changed

The Seattle Community Law Center is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides Social Security advocacy to people with disabilities who are homeless or low income.