



# Bet Tzedek

## *Justice For All*



### Housing

- Housing Conditions/Tenants' Rights/Eviction Defense
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Real Estate Fraud

### Government Benefits

- SSI and SDI, Medi-Cal and Medicare
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)
- Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)

### Impact Litigation and Advocacy

### Low Income Tax Controversy Advocacy



### Elder Law

- Conservatorships
- Elder Abuse Restraining Orders
- Senior Center Outreach
- Family Caregiver Rights

### Holocaust Survivor Services

### Employment Rights

- Wage and Hour Advocacy
- Unemployment Insurance Benefits

### Probate Guardianships

### Community Outreach

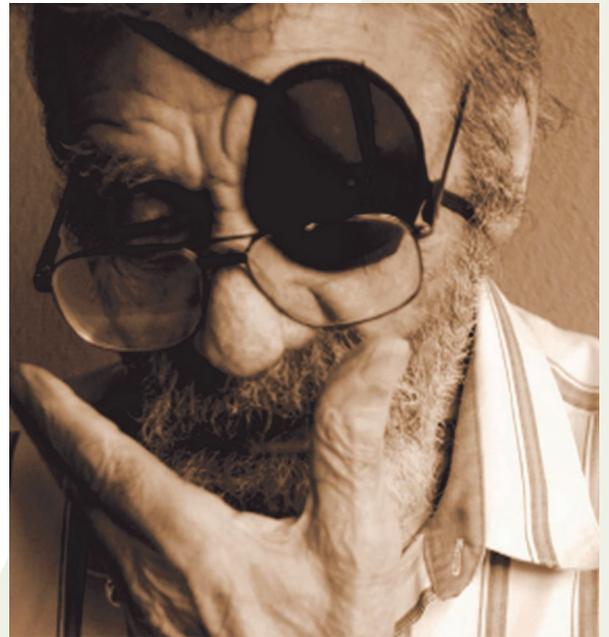
- Medical-Legal Partnership
- SOVA Community Resource Program Advocacy
- West Hollywood Project
- Caring Communities Project

BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION PROVIDING FREE, EXPERT LEGAL ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION TO LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY IN THE ABOVE AREAS.

The words are not “...with  
*Liberty and Justice for Some.*”

Bet Tzedek sets the standard for innovation in public interest law. Our pioneering projects combine direct legal representation with powerful outreach, education, and legislative advocacy. The result is a vital life-line: equal access to justice for over 20,000 low-income Angelenos every year.

In partnership with public, private, and non-profit sectors, we are innovators in addressing root causes of poverty and exploitation. Our legal expertise and capacity to effect positive, sustainable social change continues to garner national attention.



PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR DETAILS REGARDING PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

Regardless of what type of case you choose to volunteer your time through, at Bet Tzedek, we strive to provide a productive and professional development experience for all of our volunteers. For our attorney volunteers, this means providing training and mentorship throughout the course of your case.

If you are an attorney interested in volunteering, or if you have any questions, we encourage you to contact our Pro Bono Director, Diego Cartagena, at (323) 549-5839, or via email at [dcartagena@bettzedek.org](mailto:dcartagena@bettzedek.org) for more information.

**Volunteering on a Bet Tzedek case is an experience you will keep with you for the rest of your life!**

# Direct Representation Pro Bono Opportunities

**Conservatorship and Elder Abuse Restraining Orders** - Bet Tzedek is at the forefront of combating elder abuse through the use of conservatorships and elder abuse restraining orders. Attorneys interested in assisting in this field represent their clients through the process of completing various court forms and representing clients at superior court hearings where argument and evidence is presented. This is an excellent opportunity for attorneys who wish to practice their litigation skills.

**Real Estate Fraud** - Each year, Bet Tzedek represents dozens of elderly and disabled clients who have fallen victim to real estate fraud schemes that result in title to their home being transferred to another individual. In order to undue these transfers and place the property back in the hands of the rightful owner, Bet Tzedek represents the victim in a civil suit against the bad actor. Attorneys who volunteer to assist with a real estate fraud matter have the opportunity to draft a complaint, engage in discovery, including in some instances taking one or more depositions, engage in settlement negotiations, and in some instances may have the opportunity to try the case before a jury or bench officer. While these matters often require a more lengthy and significant time commitment, they represent an ideal opportunity to hone and refine a variety of trial advocacy skills. Matters placed through this program are placed for direct representation or as co-counsel arrangements, depending on the circumstances of the case.

**Holocaust Survivors Services** - Bet Tzedek assists survivors applying for reparations, pensions, and other benefits from Germany and other European countries. Bet Tzedek is also at the forefront of elder law issues affecting survivors, including the impact of reparations payments on eligibility for public benefits. Attorneys interested in volunteering can help clients secure pension and reparation payments from the German government, can help ensure survivors maintain their existing US benefits, or can represent a client to address various elder law issues through, for example, the conservatorship or elder abuse restraining orders process.

**Probate Guardianship and SIJS** - An estimated 88,000 Los Angeles County children live with their grandparents. These loving caregivers are often unable to access much needed services on behalf of their grandchildren due to a lack of legal custody over that child. Attorneys working with our Kinship Care program have the opportunity to represent caregivers through the Probate Legal Guardianship process to correct this need. The process requires client interviews, completion of court forms, and representing a client at a court hearing. Opportunities also exist to help abused, abandoned, or neglected unaccompanied immigrant children have their caregiver appointed their legal guardian and to secure orders that ultimately allow the child to secure legal permanent residency status through a law known as Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or SIJS.

**Low-Income Tax Controversy Assistance** - Bet Tzedek's Tax Law Project provides free legal representation and advice on federal or state income tax controversies, as well as certain local tax disputes. Opportunities exist to assist clients at all stages of a tax case, including audits, appeals, court proceedings, and collections. Common issues faced include: Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) denials, audits, liens and levies for past due taxes, negotiation of tax debts, innocent spouse relief, and worker misclassification. The project also provides tax education programs, delivering tax information and resources aimed at increasing the tax-related financial literacy of low-income immigrant communities.

**Employment Rights** - Studies suggest that up to 700,000 people work in Los Angeles' underground and informal economies that are sustained by low-wage workers who are subjected to systemic employment abuse, including wage theft. Attorneys volunteering with Bet Tzedek's Employment Rights Project represent low-wage workers and survivors of human trafficking in administrative and superior court hearings to help clients recoup stolen wages. Representing a client in such a matter may involve engaging in settlement negotiations, drafting a trial brief, or arguing at an administrative or superior court hearing. This is an excellent opportunity for litigators and transactional attorneys to practice their negotiation and oral advocacy skills. Individuals do not need to be licensed in California to assist with administrative hearings.

**Impact Litigation** - Through its network of pro bono partners, Bet Tzedek brings a number of impact litigation suits in a variety of areas, and undertakes reform through policy work.