

**Alameda County Bar Association  
Volunteer Legal Services Corporation  
Strategic Plan**  
*Adopted May 27, 2008 by the VLSC Board of Directors*

**Executive Summary**

The VLSC strategic plan will identify the mission and vision statement for the organization and determine its plans for 2008 through 2011. VLSC's recent period of stability after reorganization enables the VLSC Board of Directors and Staff to plan for VLSC's future as a sustainable organization.

This plan will guide both staff and board as we work together to recruit, train and support our volunteer attorneys who will then provide high-quality, sustainable direct legal assistance in our community.

The four areas of focus for the next three years and key strategies for each area appear below:

*Governance:*

- Improve the work of the VLSC Board through enhanced board development and an effective board structure.
- Enhance VLSC/ACBA organizational relationship.

*Fund Development:*

- Ensure VLSC's long-term financial stability through diversified funding streams.

*Program:*

- Develop and implement sustainable high-quality programs that adequately serve the legal needs of Alameda County's low-income population by 2009.

*Administration:*

- Develop infrastructure to support VLSC's program portfolio.
- Enhance VLSC's financial management systems.

**Mission Statement**

VLSC provides free direct legal assistance to Alameda County's low-income population by mobilizing volunteer attorneys to provide pro bono service.

**Vision Statement**

VLSC seeks to provide legal help to people living in Alameda County who otherwise cannot afford it.

**Organizational History and Profile**

VLSC is the pro bono arm of the Alameda County Bar Association. VLSC was formed in 1982 as the Alameda County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services Program and,

in 1983, became the Alameda County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services Corporation, a separately incorporated 501(c)(3) charitable organization. In 2003 and 2004, VLSC was reorganized from a staff attorney driven program and returned to its roots as a pro bono program where volunteers provide all direct legal assistance.

VLSC provides legal assistance to low-income people in Alameda County in a variety of civil areas of law, including family law, debt collection defense, bankruptcy, landlord/tenant, guardianship, and assistance to non-profit corporations. Clients are assisted at pro per clinics where volunteers provide legal education and assistance with document preparation or through pro bono panels where clients are represented by attorneys on a full scope or limited scope basis. In 2007, VLSC volunteers assisted over 700 clients. At year-end, VLSC's 240 volunteers performed over 1,900 pro bono hours.

### **Acknowledgments**

VLSC thanks all of the staff, the board, including the Strategic Planning Committee, and our many clients, volunteers and partners who participated in the strategic planning process. Their hard work, dedication, and valuable contributions to VLSC are greatly appreciated.

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