

Community Legal Education in Arizona

Overview to ACVS on the
Domestic Violence Legal
Advocate & Housing Stability
Legal Advocate Initiatives

Provided by Innovation for Justice (i4J)



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
James E. Rogers
College of Law

Who We Are: Innovation for Justice (i4J)

Social justice innovation lab that engages in access to justice research with nonprofit, government, and private sectors to advance equitable systems-level change at both service and policy levels.

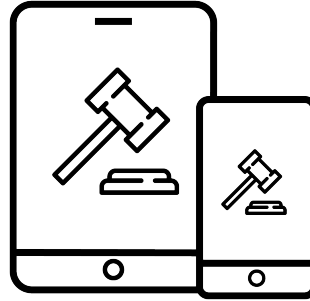


What We Do: i4J's Impact Areas



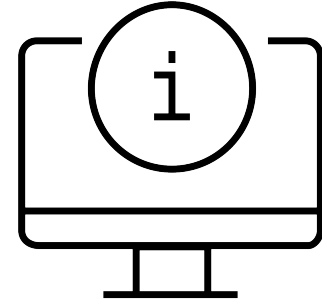
Service

Advancing community-based legal help for low-income and historically underserved populations



System

Ensuring that justice-sector tech works for low-income populations



Structure

Using technology to aggregate law and data for access to justice policy advocacy

Our Two Active Service Initiatives in AZ



2019: Domestic Violence Legal Advocates

Upskilling trauma-informed lay legal advocates at a DV service provider with the ability to give limited-scope legal advice on protective orders and family law.

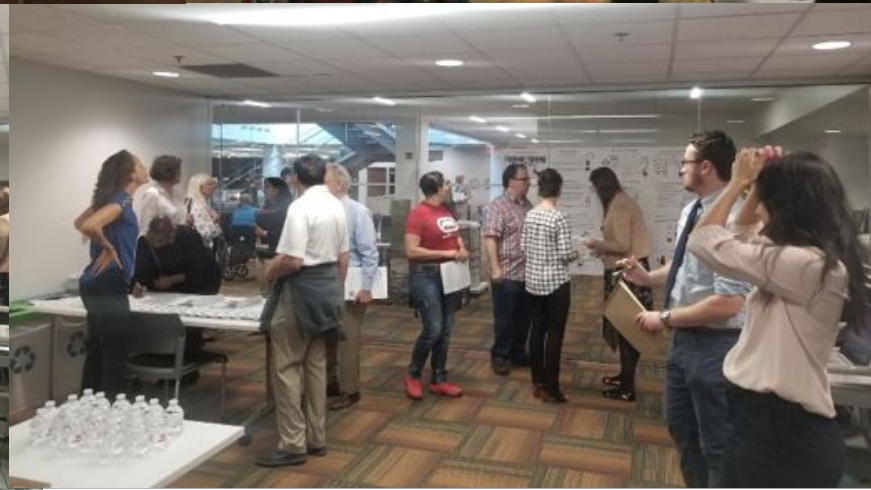


2021: Housing Stability Legal Advocates

Upskilling front line staff at community-based organizations to give limited-scope legal advice to community members experiencing housing instability.

Both Initiatives were designed through robust community-engaged research and were designed with survivors, tenants, advocates, community-based organizations, and civil legal system actors in AZ.

Community-Led Justice: Designing with the AZ Community



Overview of Statewide Authorization



DVLA Initiative:

- Authorization by AZ Supreme Court Administrative Order **No. 2024 - 35**
- AZ Supreme Court Rule 31 on Unauthorized Practice of Law is modified to allow for this Initiative
- **DVLAs are still** lay legal advocates; their legal services are exempt from UPL enforcement

HSLA Initiative:

- Authorization by AZ Supreme Court Administrative Order **No. 2024 - 34**
- AZ Supreme Court Rule 31 on Unauthorized Practice of Law is modified to allow for this Initiative
- **HSLAs are still** community-based advocates; their legal services are exempt from UPL enforcement

State Eligibility Requirements



DVLA Initiative:

- U.S. Citizen/Legal Resident
- 18+ Years or Older
- Moral Character Assessment
- High School Diploma/GED
- **2,000 Hours of Lay Legal Advocacy Experience**
- Employment or Volunteer Service with an Approved Organization
- Completion of i4J Course
- Passing Grade on AOC Certifying Exam

HSLA Initiative:

- U.S. Citizen/Legal Resident
- 18+ Years or Older
- Moral Character Assessment
- High School Diploma/GED
- Employment or Volunteer Service with an Approved Organization
- Completion of i4J Course
- Passing Grade on AOC Certifying Exam

**Code of Conduct
for Both
DVLA & HSLA**

Both the DVLA & HSLA Initiatives:

1. Competence
2. Diligence
3. Independence
4. Communications
5. Confidentiality of Information
6. Conflict of Interest: Current Clients
7. Conflict of Interest: Current Clients: Specific Rules
8. Declining or Terminating Representation
9. Truthfulness in Statements to Others
10. Reporting Professional Misconduct
11. Misconduct

Legal Liability for Both DVLA & HSLA

Both the DVLA & HSLA Initiatives:

- DVLA/HSLA Administrative Orders **shield advocates** and their host organizations from claims of UPL
- Robust training helps alleviate liability concerns among CBOs and their team members
- While lawyer's Professional Liability (malpractice) insurance is not required in AZ, **i4J supports CBOs** in connecting with an insurance provider to cover the services of advocates
- Independent insurance of participating CBOs allows client services outside of LSC-funding restrictions

What Advocates Can Do: AZ Scope of Service

DVLAs' Scope of Service:	1. Provide Legal Info & Legal Advice at Intake	2. Support Completing Court Forms & Other Filings	3. Hearing & Mediation Preparation	4. Support During Court Hearings	-
HSLAs' Scope of Service:	1. Provide Legal Info & Legal Advice at Intake	2. Provide Pre-Eviction Support	3. Provide Pre-Court Support	4. Support During Court Hearings	5. Post-Eviction Support

*"It's not very useful to just refer on and refer on, they just tell their story again and again, **it's not trauma informed.**"*

HSLA & DVLA 2023-2024 Recruitment

DVLA Initiative:

For our first statewide cohort, we received. . .

- 13 applications
- 11 pre-enrolled applicants

Our Spring '24 Cohort includes. . .

- **8** enrolled trainees
- **1** cross-enrollee
- **6** community-based organizations

HSLA Initiative:

We had initially planned for a first cohort of 20 advocates. . .

- 39 applications
- 36 pre-enrolled applicants

Our Spring '24 Cohort includes. . .

- **27** enrolled trainees
- **16** community-based organizations

Consider Applying Today!

Applications accepted on a rolling basis:



DVLA Application

Scan or visit bit.ly/dvlaexpansion



HSLA Application

Scan or visit bit.ly/hslaexpansion

Thank You for Your Time & Work in Service of Communities!

Questions about applying to a future cohort?

DVLA Questions - Antonio Coronado | antonio@innovation4justice.org

HSLA Questions - Rachel Crisler | rachel@innovation4justice.org

i4J Questions - Stacy Jane | stacy@innovation4justice.org



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