

## THE NEED

California is experiencing an explosion in the number of individuals appearing before the Court without professional legal representation on a variety of matters from family law to housing. California courts report up to 90 percent self-representation rates in family law and housing-related cases.

In all, over 4.3 million California court users are self-represented. The majority of these individuals do not obtain legal representation because they cannot afford it.

Resources available to meet the needs of these self-represented individuals are sorely lacking. In fact, the ratio of un-represented litigants to legal aid attorneys in California is 10,000 to one.

Inability to resolve legal matters jeopardizes litigants' abilities to secure safe, affordable housing, to overcome barriers to employment, to obtain guardianships, and to avoid domestic violence and elder abuse



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Judicial Council of California  
Bay Area Superior Courts

JusticeCorps Program Websites:  
[www.bayareajusticecorps.org](http://www.bayareajusticecorps.org)  
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-justicecorps.htm>



The JusticeCorps Program offers meaningful public service opportunities for students and college graduates interested in helping others while learning about the law and the court system.





## AN INTRODUCTION

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In Fall 2004, the California Administrative Office of the Courts piloted the JusticeCorps AmeriCorps program in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. Based on the success of JusticeCorps Los Angeles, JusticeCorps Bay Area members began serving in the fall of 2006, and in San Diego in 2007.



JusticeCorps Bay Area recruits undergraduate and graduate students as well as college graduates to serve in court-based legal access self-help centers serving individuals and their families who come to court without professional representation.



## JUSTICECORPS BAY AREA

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JusticeCorps Bay Area will recruit over 70 students from the University of California at Berkeley, California State University East Bay, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University and Stanford University to work in self-help centers in the Superior Courts of Alameda, San Francisco, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

JusticeCorps also has full-time fellowship positions available for college graduates.



## AS A MEMBER

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**JusticeCorps members' daily activities may include:**

- Providing litigants with legal information
- Assisting litigants in completing legal paperwork
- In-Court assistance to litigants
- Providing litigants with referrals to appropriate legal resources
- Assisting in attorney-facilitated workshops
- Translation/Interpretation

**JusticeCorps members will:**

- Commit to serve 300 hours in one academic year (approximately 8 hours per week)
- Receive an education award of , at least, \$1,221 upon completion of their term
- Receive over 40 hours of training (included in the 300 hour service requirement) including specialized training in specific areas of law, professionalism, cultural competency, domestic violence and civic engagement

**JusticeCorps fellows will:**

- Commit to a year of full-time service (1,700 hours)
- Receive an education award of, at least, \$5,775 upon completion of their term
- Earn a stipend of up to \$20,000 plus health and child care benefits
- Serve as a team leader and coordinator for student members

**Other special opportunities for JusticeCorps members may include:**

- Shadow days with Superior Court Judicial Officers
- Career Days
- Courtroom observation
- Letters of recommendation to law school and graduate school, and much more