



## Request for 2025 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

### BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Student Life

Create Date: 01/29/2025

Due Date: 02/07/2025

Submitter Name: Surtida Shelton

UW Email Address: shelton8@uw.edu

Phone Number: 2536924858

Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Dr. Bernard Anderson

Requested Amount: **\$15,000**

## Departmental Information

### STUDENT UTILIZATION

Students who may have legal questions - landlord/tenant agreements, residency concerns, personal matters involving partners or children, will be able to consult with the legal team (professional FT staff and law students) on the UW Seattle campus without having to go to Seattle. This consultation will be available at no to very little cost to our students.

### CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

Seeking legal advice or services is a daunting process for many of our students who have often been denied easy access to this type of advocacy. Student Legal Services (SLS) will be employed to work directly with UW Tacoma students to help address personal and even professional needs. By bringing SLS to campus we will help with addressing inequities experienced by our students within the legal system.

Specific goals: Students (2): Enhancing student wellbeing - this service will expand student support ecosystems

### SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

UW Seattle and Bothell students have access to Student Legal Services (SLS), and our goal is to provide the same access to UW Tacoma students. SLS does educational outreach, print material creation, and maintains a webpage to share information with all UW students. On campus specifically, we make sure that key offices such as OSAS, OISS, UAA, PAWS all have information about this service. These offices are often the gateway to access legal assistance. We will also make sure that during orientation, students are aware that this resource exists for them.

## STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

Student Legal Services became accessible to UW Tacoma students starting with the 2023-2024 year. 2024-2025 is the second full year that UWT students have had access to this service. As we go into the third year, we want to make sure students know that this is a confidential service, where they can get legal advice or a referral to legal counsel if needed (within the community). Based on the numbers for last year, and utilization of the services this year, it is clear that students need access to safe legal services. Given current climate, my guess is that this need will increase.

### **Summer Quarter 2024**

- Number of Meeting Requests: 14
- Number of Consultations Held: 9
- Practice Areas: Immigration (4), Landlord/ Tenant (3), Divorce (1), Torts (1)
- Undergraduate Students: 6
- Graduate Students: 8
- Non U.S. Citizens: 5
- Student of Color: 6
- First Gen: 9
- Student with Disabilities: 4
- LGBTQAI: 4

### **Fall Quarter 2024**

- Number of Meeting Requests: 20
- Number of Consultations Held: 16
- Practice Areas: Immigration (5), Landlord/ Tenant (3), Divorce (2), Contracts/ Warranties (1), Custody/ Visitation (1), Wills and Estates (2), Criminal - DV (1), Criminal - Other (1), Employment Discrimination (1)
- Undergraduate Students: 12
- Graduate Students: 8
- Non U.S. Citizens: 9
- Student of Color: 15
- First Gen: 10
- Student with Disabilities: 5
- LGBTQAI: 3

### **TOTAL COMBINED - Fall and Winter Quarters 2024**

- **Number of requests: 34**
- **Number of consultations held: 25**
- Practice Areas:
  - Immigration (9)
  - LL/T (5)
  - Divorce (3)
  - Torts (1)
  - Contract/ Warranties (1)
  - Custody/ Visitation (1)
  - Wills and Estates (2)
  - Criminal DV - (1)
  - Criminal Other - (1)
  - Employment Discrimination - (1)
- Percentage of UWT Undergraduates: 53%
- Percentage of UWT Graduate Students: 47%
- Percentage of Students of Color (UWT only): 62%
- Percentage of First-Generation Students (UWT only): 56%
- Percentage of Non-U.S. Citizens (UWT only): 41%
- Percentage of Students with Disabilities (UWT only): 26%
- Percentage of LGBTQAI+ Students (UWT only): 21%
- Number of UWT Ongoing Cases: 3
- Number of Hours Worked on UWT Ongoing Cases: 20.75 hours

Amount Saved by UWT Students in Ongoing Cases (\$20 versus the average hourly rate of \$322 in the private sector): **\$6259.90**

Here is a link to their annual report for last academic year: <https://www.flipsnack.com/slsuw/sls-annual-report-vol-4-2023-2024.html> (pg. 35-36 for Tacoma specific information)

## COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

The Student Legal Services team collects all data and feedback. They manage all the information as they do have to protect the students who access their services. They will share data points with us which will inform any changes we need to make - for the most part this is about making sure that students know that this resource is available to them, and that it is a safe resource to access.

**SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS**

Here is what Student Legal Services sent us:

Here are a few client testimonials from UWT students that you can also share in your request:

- "[SLS staff] is very nice, kind, helpful and informative, helping me to understand my situation and explain clearly about my divorce process. I [appreciate] the experience [I had] with SLS services."
- "[SLS staff] offered professional services and relevant info. I appreciate the flexibility SLS offered – I canceled (in advance of 24 hrs prior to my appt) a few times, but they never said I had asked for a reschedule too much. SLS were compassionate in understanding my delays in getting info and being available for a consult."
- "I got the immediate assistance, and it was very clear. All of my questions were answered without any hesitation. Keep up the good service work."
- "The compassion and understanding were amazing as well as the explaining of next steps!"

**Staff Budget Requests**

Category	Details	Amount Requested
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$0

**Other Budget Requests**

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Contracted Services	SLS is charging a flat fee this year to cover all costs including staff pay, benefits, and costs of supplies and materials S001	<b>\$15,000</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$15,000

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$15,000
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

**Supplemental Documents**



**SLS REQUEST FOR FLAT FEE**

The Director for Student Legal Services is requesting a flat fee to support UWT students.