



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES



MISSION

The mission of SLS is to provide preventive legal education, counseling, advice, and individual representation to students in order to enhance their academic experience. SLS strives to teach students their legal rights and responsibilities in order to empower them.

SLS informs students of practical aspects of the law as it applies to their individual problems. In-court representation is available in many situations. Priority is given to students with housing issues, such as habitability, eviction, damage deposit return issues, etc.

STAFF

The staff consists of three full-time attorneys, office support personnel, work-study students, and sometimes law student interns from the University's College of Law, who work under the supervision of the attorneys.

REPRESENTATION

Basic litigation is provided in housing matters where students are being evicted, seeking habitability code enforcement, and/or the return of damage or security deposits. SLS can in most cases represent students in traffic and criminal misdemeanor cases.

TO USE SLS

- Fill out and submit an "intake" form on the SLS website at odos.illinois.edu/sls (select the "Schedule an Appointment/Online Intake Forms" link).
- Go to the SLS office at 324 Illini Union on the Green Street side of the building. Bring your i-card and any necessary documents (tickets, lease contract, etc.) with you to be photocopied.
- While at the SLS office, select an open appointment to come back on a different day to discuss your issue with an attorney.

PREVENTATIVE LEGAL EDUCATION

Staff attorneys provide presentations and educate students on legal issues throughout the year through many venues including fraternities, sororities, residence halls, RSO's, and more. SLS e-publishes 44 brochures with 7 translated into Chinese, 5 into Korean, 2 into Italian, 2 into Spanish, and 1 into Japanese. There are also, 13 instructional PowerPoint presentations, with one translated into Chinese. All can be downloaded at odos.illinois.edu/sls.

A new section, *Community and Self-Help Resources & Immigration Referrals*, was added with multiple resources and guides.

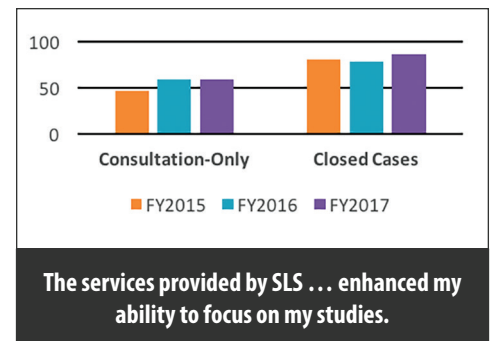
Court documents posted to our section, "Especially for International Students," added Italian, Hindi and Nepali translations to Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian.

LEGAL COUNSELING AND ADVICE

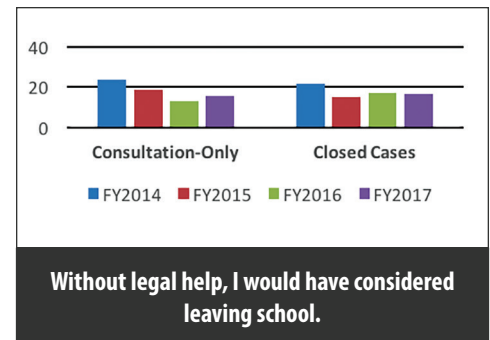
- In fiscal year 2017, 2,270 were helped by SLS.
- 1,954 issues were resolved by one to several meetings between student and attorney.
- 316 files were opened for extensive representation involving housing, traffic, misdemeanor, and other issues.
- Staff attorneys encourage alternatives to litigation, such as mediation and other out-of-court settlement approaches.

SLS EFFECT ON RETENTION

Percentage of Students responding "Strongly Agree" and "Moderately Agree" to below questions.



The services provided by SLS ... enhanced my ability to focus on my studies.



Without legal help, I would have considered leaving school.