



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PRO BONO PROJECT

Henry Mantel
Pro Bono Coordinator





**MAYOR'S FUND
FOR LOS ANGELES**



**LEGAL AID
FOUNDATION**
OF LOS ANGELES



**We Are LA
Pro Bono Partners**



Evictions harm communities and cause trauma

- ▷ Including in areas of employment, health, family stability, children's education, and more

Eviction is a racial justice issue

- ▷ Disproportionate impact on communities of color, especially for Black and Latina women

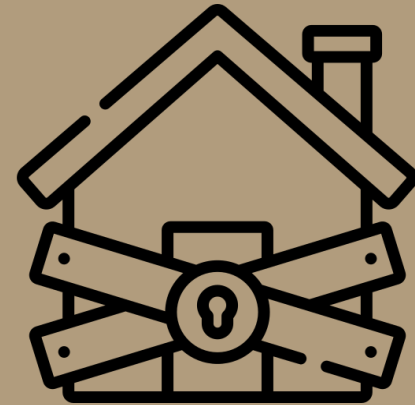
Eviction defense is critical to prevent homelessness

- ▷ We Are LA project focuses on keeping low-income tenant families housed

Cost benefit of preventing homelessness

- ▷ City of Los Angeles saves \$120.3 million

Eviction Facts



Eviction Service Gap Problem



Study: Eviction defense prevents homelessness

- ▷ 150 unrepresented eviction cases analyzed
- ▷ Out of 150 cases, tenants lost 100% of the time

Not enough trained attorneys to help

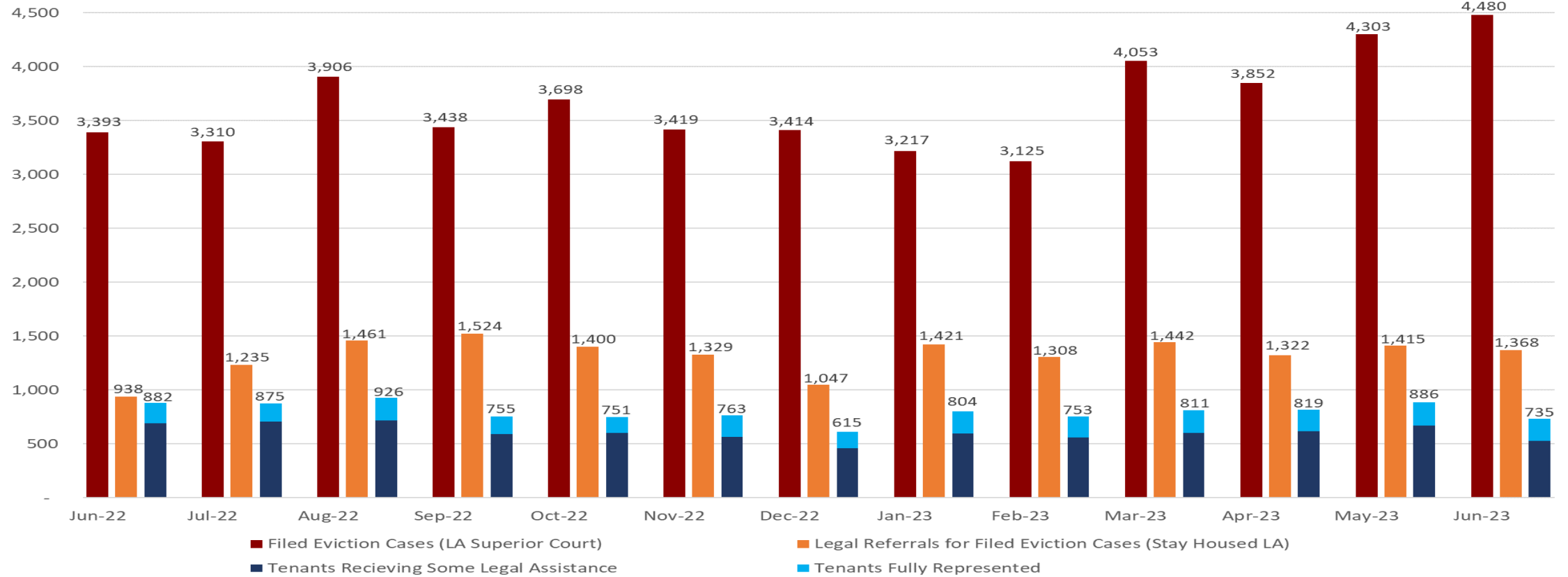
- ▷ Insufficient number of legal aid attorneys to meet low-income tenant needs

Need to educate future advocates

- ▷ Expose and train law students and pro bono attorneys on landlord-tenant law



Unmet Legal Need in LA County (June 2022 - June 2023)



City of Los Angeles Eviction Filings:

- August 2023 - 2,747 (increase of 300+ from June & July)
- 90% of Landlords are represented, only 10% of tenants
- Almost 40% of tenants default, primarily out of ignorance

Future:

- February 2024- # of tenants with COVID rent due double August 2023 (UPenn study)





Eviction is a Social Justice Issue

- Black Angelinos make up 9% of LA County but 30% of the homeless population
- Black renter households have the greatest likelihood of experiencing eviction
- Poor Black women are at a higher risk of eviction.
 - 1 in 5 Black women report having been evicted sometime in their adult life.
 - 1 in 12 Hispanic women
 - 1 in 15 white women
- Children also are at a heightened risk of eviction.
 - 1 in 20 Californian children are homeless.
- If a tenant in eviction court lives with children, odds of receiving an eviction judgment almost triple.
- 2,201 people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles died in 2021 (6 a day)



Pro Bono Needs to Step Up

Well-designed
Pro Bono
project

1st of its kind

Dedicated staff
focused on Pro
Bono project
development

Built on existing
Stay Housed
L.A.
infrastructure



Stay Housed L.A.





What Does SHLA Do?



SHLA Impact

Fall 2020–July 2023

Outreach

- 1,459,294 tenants

Education

- 1,241 workshops attended by 23,433 tenants

Navigation

- 19,861 tenants supported

Legal Services

- 20,766 tenants
- 5,297 full scope

Rental Assistance

- \$4,591,586 in rental assistance for settlements



We Are LA

Pro Bono Project Overview



We Are LA Pro Bono Homelessness Prevention Project

WIDE VARIETY OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



SHORT-TERM CLINICS TO ASSIST TENANTS FACING HOMELESSNESS

FULL-SCOPE REPRESENTATION IN EVICTION CASES, INCLUDING APPEALS

FLEXIBILITY AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE

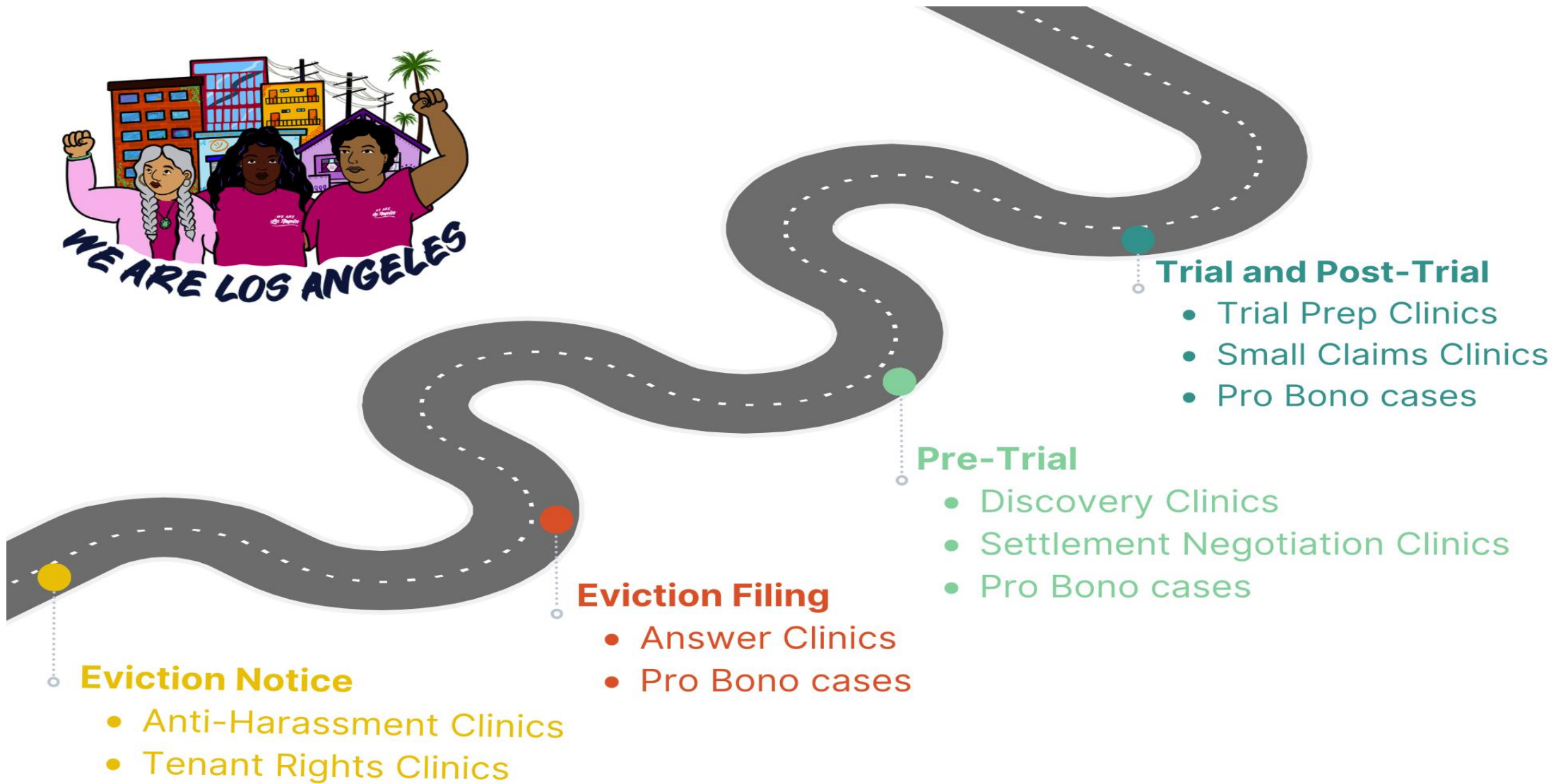


OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

REMOTE AND IN-PERSON OPTIONS

DEDICATED PRO BONO STAFF AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT/SUPERVISE





**Volunteer to Help Tenants
Avoid Eviction and Homelessness**



Full Scope Eviction Defense Cases



We Are LA

SHLA Pro Bono Partnerships

All cases are
screened

Get recognition for
Pro Bono service

Covered by legal
service partner's
malpractice
insurance

Mentoring always
provided

Learn eviction
defense law

Gain litigation
experience

Network/collaborate
with advocates

Be part of the social
justice movement



Trainings



Pro Bono Training Institute

- ▷ Free online, on demand legal training, including housing
- ▷ Receive MCLE credit
- ▷ www.PBtraining.org





Q&A



Henry Mantel
Pro Bono Coordinator
Phone: (818) 492-5297
Email: henrymantel@nlsia.org

**Thank you for listening
and volunteering!**

