



WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC

Legal Services

Whitman-Walker Clinic offers free legal services to Whitman-Walker Clinic clients. In 2008, the legal services program provided services to nearly 2,400 new clients, and referrals for those not eligible for the Clinic's services. In addition, the Clinic engages in legal reform efforts and provides public education, training and technical assistance to other attorneys working on HIV-related cases.

All services are available to the Spanish-speaking community through bilingual staff and volunteers. We also serve many Amharic, French and Portuguese-speaking clients with the aid of skilled interpreters.

Whitman-Walker Clinic has developed a national reputation in several specialized practice areas of HIV/AIDS law:

- **Planning documents:** Counseling, preparation of simple wills; general powers of attorney; advanced medical directives and living wills; arrangements for future care of minor children; and declarations of wishes for funerals, memorial services and burial arrangements.
- **Insurance:** Counseling, advocacy and representation involving health, life and disability insurance.
- **Discrimination:** Counseling, advocacy and representation in proceedings involving employment, health care, education and housing discrimination.
- **Public benefits:** Counseling, advocacy and representation for clients seeking access to Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and local benefit programs.
- **Immigration:** Counseling, advocacy and representation on behalf of clients whose seropositive status forms the basis for denial of immigration benefits or relief; preparation of HIV-waiver applications and asylum applications.
- **Medical privacy:** Counseling and representation to safeguard the right to confidentiality of medical information in the workplace, and to vindicate the rights of individuals whose HIV status or other sensitive medical information was unlawfully disclosed without their consent.
- **Debtors' rights:** Assistance to individuals with consumer or medical debt, student loan debt or tax debt, including assessment of options, advocacy with creditors,

assistance in assessing bankruptcy options, and referral to low-cost assistance in filing bankruptcy petitions.

Because of Whitman-Walker Clinic's longstanding mission to the LGBT community, the Legal Services Program also provides assistance to LGBT individuals in the following areas, depending on our capacity: relief under the immigration laws for foreign nationals facing persecution in their countries of origin because of sexual orientation or gender identity or presentation; discrimination based on transgender status or sexual orientation; and wills, powers of attorney, and advance health care directives for lower-income LGBT individuals and couples.