



Legal Aid Society helps low-income veterans and immigrants

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By **Donna J. Miller, Plain Dealer reporter**

CLEVELAND, Ohio — The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland hosts free legal-advice sessions for immigrants applying for citizenship and veterans who need legal help.

"When Legal Aid began in 1905, most of our clients were immigrants who recently arrived in the United States," said spokeswoman Melanie Shakarian. "Today, we undertake an effort to help immigrants who are permanent residents – with their "green card" – apply for citizenship."

Immigrants seeking information and help with the citizenship process can get free legal advice between 5 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the society's main office, 1223 West Sixth St.



Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

A veteran gets help from a volunteer attorney at a recent Legal Aid Society event.

"And Legal Aid has long been an advocate for our veterans. We helped expand vocational education opportunities for Vietnam War veterans and continue to provide high-quality legal services to our returning heroes," Shakarian said.

Ohio has the fifth largest veteran population in the country. Low-income veterans can get help from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, 1849 Prospect Ave.

Appointments aren't necessary, but can be made by calling 888-817-3777.

The Legal Aid Society also helps with foreclosure and other housing problems, suspended driver's licenses, contracts, divorce, child support, public assistance, special education and employment. The attorneys can't help with criminal matters.

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