



# News Release

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## ***Free TJSL's Employee Rights Self-Help Clinic Saturday, February 8, 2014 in the East Village***

*Appointments are Still Available from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
To make an appointment, please call (619) 961-4371*

SAN DIEGO - Thomas Jefferson School of Law will hold its free Employee Rights Self-Help Clinic on Saturday, February 8, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. More than half of the appointment slots are already reserved for this free assistance, but there are still a handful of openings for individuals with employment law issues.

The Employee Rights Self-Help Clinic provides brief, one-time consultations to self-represented individuals with various labor and employment law problems, including issues related to wage and hour law, family or medical leave, discrimination and harassment. The clinic does not counsel businesses – only employees and an appointment is required. The 30-minute consultation per client is run by TJSL alumni lawyers who practice employment law. Those lawyers are paired with TJSL law students, who help the legal services consumers locate self-help materials and other resources.

The free clinic is held every second Saturday of the month at 495 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, at the law school's Clinical Programs Office in the East Village area of downtown San Diego. The free assistance is offered for both English and Spanish speaking individuals.

TJSL Professors Susan Bisom-Rapp and Rebecca Lee serve as faculty co-coordinators of the clinic.

"Employees commonly have questions about workplace-related matters, but they may find it difficult to find the answers and may not have the means to consult a lawyer," said Professor Lee. "Thomas Jefferson's new Employee Rights Self-Help Clinic will help provide individuals with the relevant information and resources so that they can more effectively represent themselves should they decide to proceed as pro se claimants."

"Many workers have employment problems that go unaddressed because those employees lack information about their legal rights," added Professor Bisom-Rapp. "Even when such people have information about their legal rights, they may misunderstand the legal issues involved. This problem has a socio-economic dimension; those who lack means often lack access to legal representation. The access problem is also one with racial and ethnic dimensions. TJSL's Employee Rights Self-Help Clinic attempts to address this access to justice gap by providing an initial consultation to self-represented individuals – those who do not have a lawyer."

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