# Legal Resource Support for Aging and Disability Networks

Omar R. Valverde David Godfrey

July 5, 2012

# What are the Biggest Legal Threats Older Adults Face?

- Threats related to Income Security
- Threats related to Housing
- Threats to related Health Care Financing
- > Threats related to Consumer Protection
- Threats related to Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation

# Legal Issues on the Frontlines

- Area Agency/ADRC staff are in a unique position to Identify threats to independence and financial Security
- Identified threats may be addressed through legal and elder rights protections
- Area Agency/ADRC staff can sharpen their skills and instincts to look beyond the obvious.

# The Frontline "Eyes and Ears"

- > AAA/ADRC/ I @ R staff
- Options/Benefits Counselors
- Case Managers
- > Adult Protective Services
- > Health Care Professionals
- Housing Service Coordinators
- > Financial Professionals
- Senior Center Staff





# Looking Beyond the Obvious

- I've been hurt!
- I fear for my safety!
- I'm being sued!
- > I've been arrested!
- > I need a will or POA!
- I'm being evicted!



# Why Problems are Hard to Spot

- > "NO problem is an island onto itself"
- A visible problem is frequently caused or aggravated by another underlying hidden problem
- Often people do not realize that their problem(s) may have a legal or protective service remedy



#### www.nlrc.aoa.gov

David Godfrey
Senior Attorney
American Bar Association
Commission on L77aw and Aging
David, Godfrey@americanbar.org

Omar R. Valverde A., Esq. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration on Aging Office of Elder Rights
Omar Valverde @ AoA.hhs.gov

# **NLRC Goal and Objectives**

GOAL: Creation of a comprehensive <u>national legal assistance</u> <u>support system</u> for aging and legal networks

#### Objective 1:

To support the leadership, knowledge, and systems capacity of states, legal services providers, area agencies on aging, ADRCs, and other organizations serving older persons **in order to** enhance the quality, cost effectiveness, and accessibility of legal assistance and elder rights programs provided to older persons.

#### Objective 2:

To support demonstration projects designed to expand or improve the delivery of legal assistance and elder rights protections to older persons with social or economic needs.

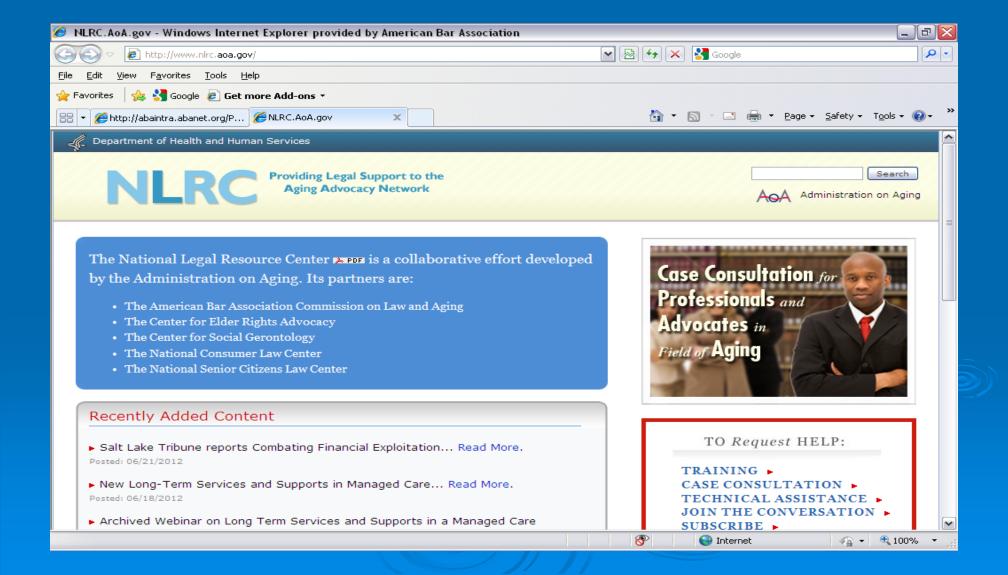
### **NLRC Core Functions**

- Case Consultation
  - National Senior Citizens Law Center (Lead org)
  - National Consumer Law Center
  - ABA Commission on Law and Aging
- Legal Training
  - The National Consumer Law Center (Lead org)
  - The National Senior Citizens Law Center
  - ABA Commission on Law and Aging
  - Center for Elder Rights Advocacy
- Resource Development and Dissemination
  - ABA Commission on Law and Aging
- Technical Assistance Legal Service Delivery Systems
  - The Center for Social Gerontology
  - Center for Elder Rights Advocacy

# Systems Building TA

- The NLRC provides Technical Assistance on building well integrated, cost effective, and targeted legal service delivery systems:
- Needs and Capacity Assessments
- Leveraging Low Cost Mechanisms
- Targeting and Outreach
- Legal Service Delivery Standards
- Reporting Systems and Outcomes
- Integration of Aging and Legal Networks

### Welcome to the NLRC



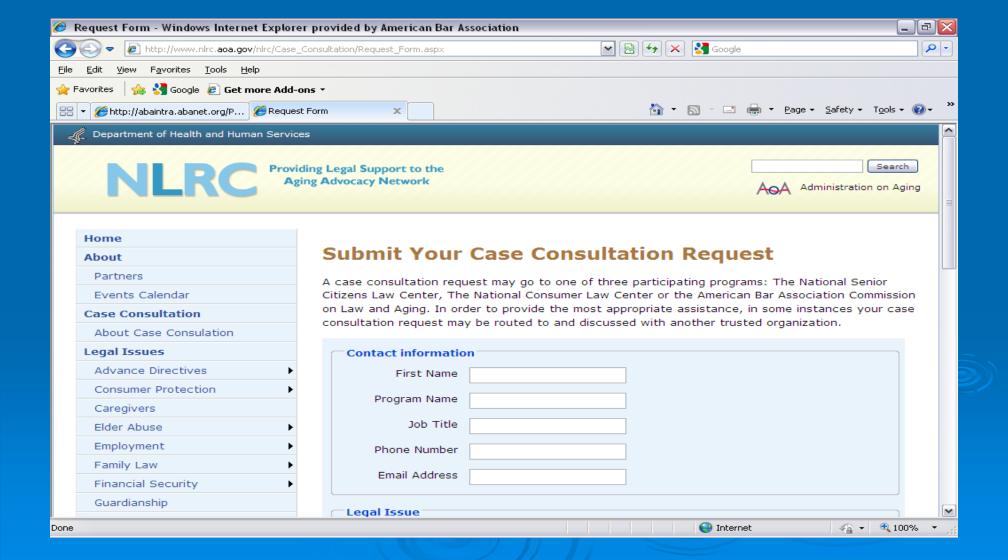
# The National Legal Resource Center is a collaborative effort developed by the Administration on Aging. Its partners are:

- The American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging
- The Center for Elder Rights Advocacy
- The Center for Social Gerontology
- The National Consumer Law Center
- > The National Senior Citizens Law Center

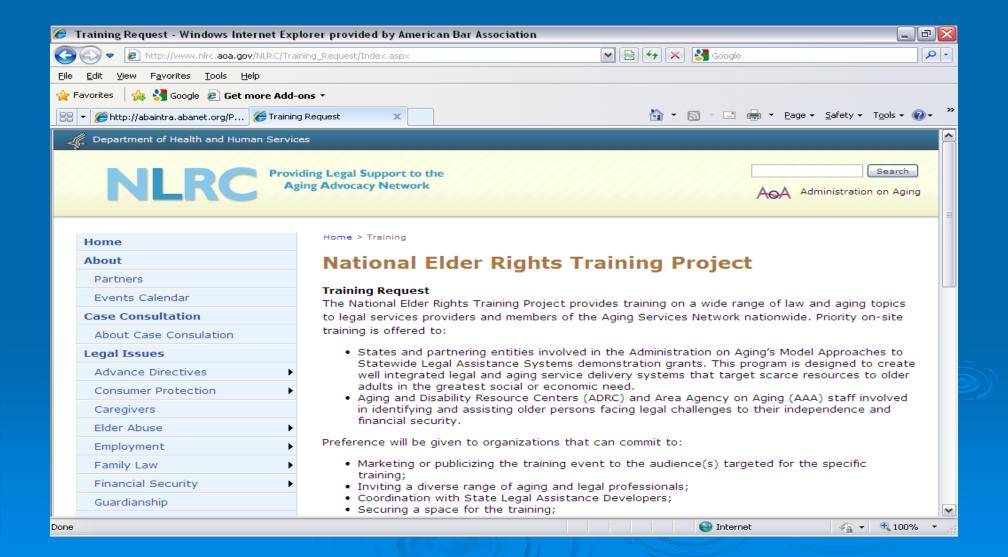
# Legal Questions?



# Request form



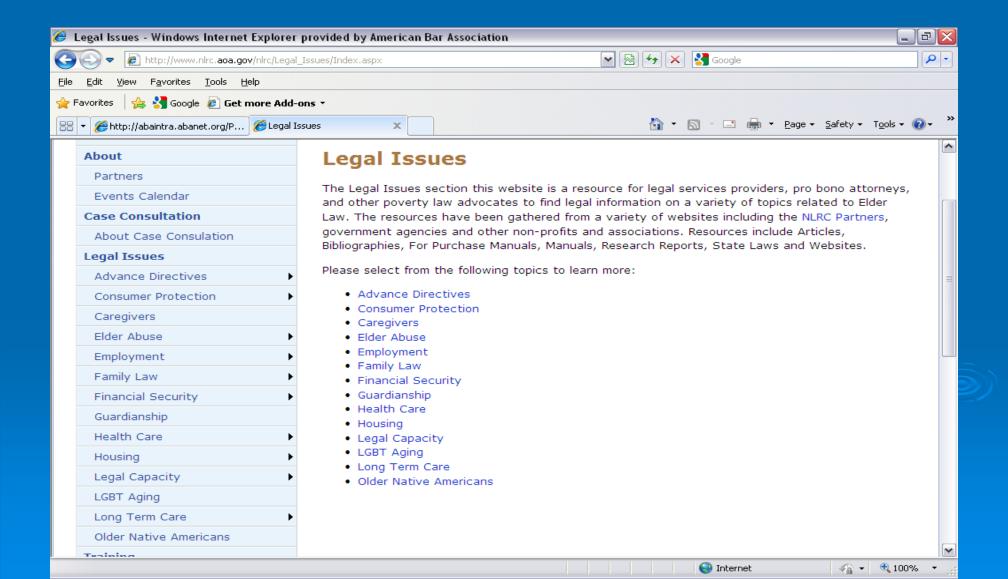
# Training



# Training

- > Webinar Series (NCLC, CERA, NSCLC)
- CLE/CEU Special Discounts
- Custom Intensive Onsite Training
- Conference and Workshop Speakers
- Custom Legal Issue Spotting
- Guest trainers

# Substantive Library



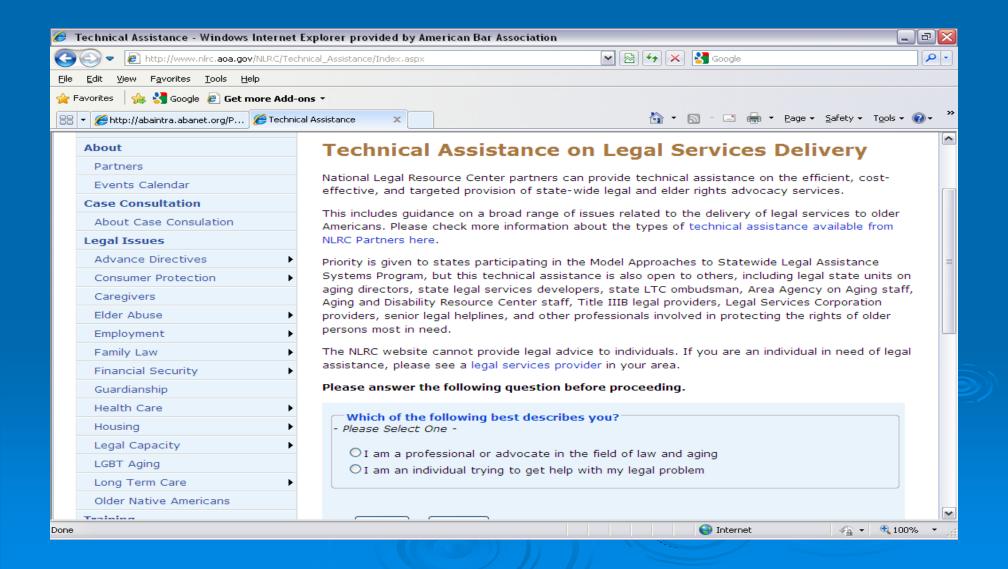
#### Join the Conversation

- Elderbar list Serve
- Special interest list serves

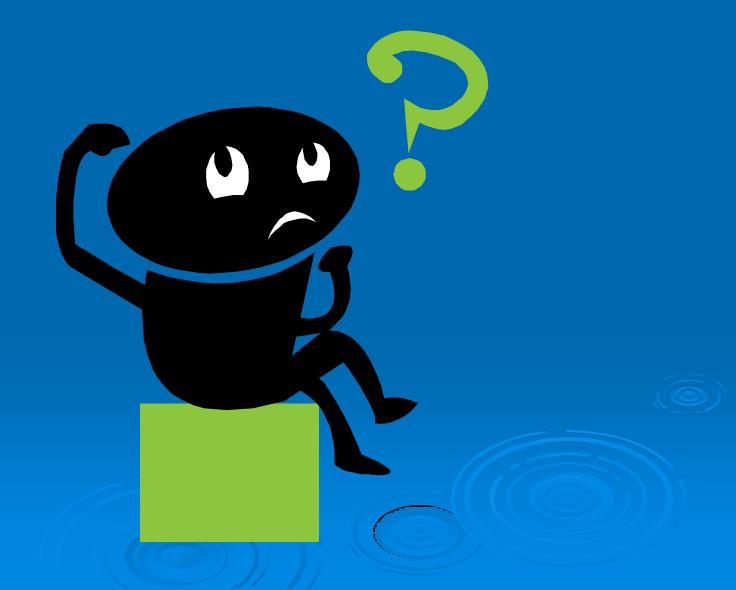
- Subscribe
- > BIFOCAL
- > NCLC Outlook
- > NSCLC "In Review"
- CERA Legal Hotlines Connection



#### **Technical Assistance**



# Questions



## Thank You!

