



ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPANISH LEGAL & REFERRAL HOTLINE ANNOUNCED

Wednesday, May 24, 2006. Anchorage, Alaska –Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC), with support from members of its Pro Bono Spanish Language Committee and the generosity of AT&T, GCI and interpreters Grace Anderson and Sindy Donahue, is announcing the first Spanish Legal & Referral Telephone Hotline (hotline) in Alaska. This free service will be launched on June 26 and will be staffed once a month by a volunteer attorney and if necessary, an interpreter.

Attorney Currey Cook from the Office of Public Advocacy and interpreter Sindy Donahue will be the first volunteers. Andy Harrington, ALSC's Executive Director, stated, "We are delighted that this service is being made available through the joint efforts of volunteers and the contributions of GCI and AT&T. Currey was recognized by the Bar Association for his outstanding contributions to pro bono, and he's taking this to an even higher level by kicking off this new program."

The hotline will be staffed on the last Monday of every month (except December) from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Callers will receive a free telephone consultation on general civil matters (housing, family law, public benefits, employment, etc.) or referrals to a local non-profit that can provide additional assistance and information. The hotline will be accessible by dialing (907) 644-4856 in Anchorage or toll free at (866) 377-4856 outside of Anchorage. With help from Krista Scully, Pro Bono Director of the Alaska Bar Association, GCI & AT&T have donated local and toll free telephone services to ALSC to make this project a reality.

Establishment of this hotline has been one of the goals set by a committee ALSC established in June 2005 to identify and address some of the civil legal problems affecting the Spanish-speaking community in Alaska. Other accomplishments have included four successful clinics in Mountain View over the last few months and plans to add more during the current calendar year.

The next Spanish Language Legal Clinic will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe church (3900 Wisconsin Street) on June 6, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. Topics will include: how the legal system works in Alaska, how to work with an interpreter, civil rights, unauthorized practice of law, and where to find other legal resources. Representatives from other agencies will be there to talk about their services.



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“These clinics and the hotline are the first step to provide more services to the growing Spanish speaking population in Alaska with the limited resources we have. It is my hope that if successful, this model can be used for outreach to other minority groups in the future,” said Erick Cordero, ALSC’s statewide Director of Volunteer Services and Community Support and founder of the committee.

Alaska Legal Services Corporation is a non-profit organization established in 1966 and the largest statewide provider of free legal services in Alaska. ALSC will celebrate its 40th anniversary on September 15 in conjunction with its Robert Hickerson Partners in Justice Campaign kickoff. Plans are underway to host a series of events. The award-winning Volunteer Attorney Support pro bono program has been assisting low-income Alaskans for over two decades through the generosity of members of the Alaska Bar Association.

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