

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Linda Kim, Bay Area Legal Aid, LKim@BayLegal.org, 510-250-5218

Richard Heinrich, RHeinrich@OneLegal.com, 415-483-6320

Bay Area legal tech firm announces partnership with non-profit legal aid group Bay Area Legal Aid

One Legal and Bay Area Legal Aid partnership seeks to fill legal aid funding gap

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — [One Legal](#), a North Bay based legal technology company, has today announced an extended partnership with Bay Area Legal Aid ([BayLegal](#)), the Bay Area's leading provider of civil legal aid to the most vulnerable members of the community. This joint venture adds a revenue-sharing element to the ongoing donation of the firm's technology, and has been launched in response to steep budget cuts proposed in the current draft of the federal budget for 2018.

Headquartered in Oakland and serving seven Bay Area counties, BayLegal may be faced with losing up to one-fourth of its total funding in the coming year. Next year's proposal eliminates the [Legal Services Corporation](#) (LSC), an independent agency established by Congress, which provides financial support for civil legal aid to low-income Americans. Last year, BayLegal received \$4.1 million from LSC, and client services will be severely cut if they cannot supplement the difference moving forward.

With the [Giving Back](#) program, One Legal is stepping up to fill the gap made by federal budget cuts. In addition to providing no-cost access to its legal services and products to BayLegal, One Legal will invite law firm customers to enroll in a program whereby 5 percent of the net revenue arising from their use of the One Legal platform is donated directly to BayLegal. It is one of the most generous corporate/non-profit partnerships ever announced in the legal sector.

"We have both an opportunity and a responsibility," One Legal President, Robert DeFilippis said, "Our organization is well aligned with BayLegal's mission and I believe many of our law firm customers are as well. We're just connecting the dots with our Give Back program."

"Access to needed legal services isn't just a matter of justice—important as that is," said BayLegal Executive Director, Alex R. Gulotta. "For many of the underserved of our communities, it is food, shelter, employment, family."

The California State Bar reports that for every one legal aid staff attorney there are more than 8,000 vulnerable people in the state who qualify for free legal assistance, which makes this an ideal opportunity for leaders in the industry to explore new areas of corporate social responsibility that have a real impact close to home.

Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal)

From Napa Valley to Silicon Valley, BayLegal ensures fairness in the civil justice system for the most vulnerable members of our community. We are the largest poverty law firm in the Bay Area dedicated to helping clients protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families. Our attorneys and advocates are on the front lines fighting for our clients' rights. When all other hope is lost, we bring justice within reach for the more than 1.2 million Bay Area residents living in poverty. Our mission is to provide meaningful access to the civil justice system through high quality legal assistance regardless of a client's location, language, or disability.

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