

The Legal Center for People
with Disabilities and Older People



Colorado's Protection & Advocacy System

**COLORADO LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM &
COLORADO LEGAL ASSISTANCE DEVELOPER PROGRAM**

Colorado Older Americans Act Programs

The Colorado Long-Term Care Ombudsman

The Colorado Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is a statewide advocacy program for residents of long-term care facilities. The State Ombudsman office is located in The Legal Center and operates through a contract with the Aging and Adult Services Division of the Colorado Department of Human Services. There are 16 local programs that operate within or in conjunction with the Regional Area Agency on Aging.

The program is authorized by state and federal law to investigate complaints made by (and on behalf of) residents of long-term care facilities. During the fiscal year 2008, The Colorado Long-Term Care Ombudsman handled 8,880 complaints. Ombudsmen handle and resolve complaints at the lowest possible level, thus reducing the need for agency action or litigation. A copy of the 2007 Ombudsman Annual Report is available on The Legal Center website: www.thelegalcenter.org. The 2008 Annual Report, which will be a joint report with the Colorado Legal Assistance Developer Program, will be distributed to members of the Colorado General Assembly during the 2009 General Session.

The Colorado Legal Assistance Developer

Under the Older Americans Act (OAA), every State Unit on Aging must have the capacity to undertake certain functions with respect to legal assistance. The OAA requires the State agency to provide assurance that each State will assign personnel (one of whom shall be known as the Colorado Legal Assistance Developer- CLAD) to provide State leadership in developing legal assistance programs for older individuals throughout the State. This office is also housed at The Legal Center.

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www.thelegalcenter.org

The Legal Assistance Developer is required to play numerous roles and to have a broad and specialized knowledge of laws and policies affecting older Americans. At various times, the CLAD may be called upon to act as administrator, legislative interpreter, negotiator, diplomat, legal scholar, public speaker, writer, teacher, data-gatherer, head-hunter, reporter and in-person client referral service. The CLAD must stay abreast of changes in state and federal legislation and regulations affecting the delivery of legal services to older person, as well as in the many substantive areas of law that affect them.

Current Personnel

Colorado Long Term Care Ombudsman

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Colorado Legal Assistance Developer

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