



The following is a current list LCA matters within the identified Categories.

To learn more about any of the matters on our Case List, please contact our Associate Director of Legal Services, Christopher Johnson, at (312) 837-3521 or cjohnson@law-arts.org.

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Legal Category

Arts Category

- Any -

- Any -

Case #	Legal Category	Arts Category	Description
25-1062 Pro Bono			Trademark Registration: Fashion 25-1062 Client is a fashion designer. Client seeks assistance trademarking a logo for their clothing brand. Client also needs assistance drafting agreements for collaborations and media creation.
25-1059 Pro Bono		Visual Art	Nonprofit: Real Property: Visual Art 25-1059 Client is a public art NFP. Client is in the process of purchasing property. Client needs assistance with both the purchase as well as guidance around a NFP buying and developing property.
25-1056 Pro Bono			Copyright Infringement: Visual Art 25-1056 Client is a podcast. Client used third party agency to create graphics and social media assets. Client received a cease and desist related to one of the images posted in relation to the podcast. Client needs assistance responding to the claim.
25-1053 Pro Bono			Nonprofit: Formation/Maintenance: Visual Art 25-1053 Client is a newly formed visual arts NFP. Client needs assistance creating formation documents and filing to obtain tax exempt status.
25-1050 Pro Bono			Contract Review: Film/TV 25-1050 Client is a director and producer of a documentary film. Client needs help negotiating contract terms with a documentary participant.
25-1042 Pro Bono		Film/TV	Contract Drafting: Film/TV Client is a screenwriter and filmmaker. Client has a project based on real life events. Client needs assistance in drafting an agreement for the production including covering life rights for the story.
25-1041 Pro Bono			Contract Review: Internship: Film/TV 25-1041 Client is a freelance photographer and filmmaker. Client has received an offer an internship in the industry. Client needs help reviewing contracts for the internship including non-disclosure and IP agreements.
25-1030 Pro Bono			Nonprofit: Formation/Maintenance: Literature 25-1030 Client is a literary group. Client has only ever existed as a volunteer organization and has never raised income. Client seeks advice on whether or not they should obtain tax exempt status before engaging in fundraising efforts.

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25-1025 Pro Bono		Music	Contract Drafting: Music Production 25-1025 Client is a recording studio. Client seeks to host educational workshops and classes for the general public. Client needs assistance drafting contracts and waivers for as well as assessing insurance needs.
25-1022 Pro Bono		Film/TV	Other: Clearances: Film/TV 25-1022 Client is a documentary film LLC. Client is creating a documentary film and is seeking audio testimony from previous court proceedings. Client needs assistance bringing a FOIA-type request to determine if the audio recording of this testimony exists and to ultimately obtain said recording for use in the film.
25-1021 Pro Bono		Film/TV, Music, Visual Art	Trademark Registration: NFP: Arts Education 25-1021 Client is an arts education NFP. Client has program to get youth involved in climate crisis activism. Client seeks assistance in filing trademark protections for names and logos affiliated with the program.
25-1019 Pro Bono		Music	Dispute: Membership Revocation: Music 25-1019 Client is an entertainment attorney. Client belonged to a music organization, but recently had membership revoked. Client believes this was not due to valid criteria but rather demographic information and needs representation in pursuing a discrimination claim.
25-1016 Pro Bono	Other		Trademark Registration: Dance, Theater, Visual Art 25-1016 Client is an immersive experience LLC. Client needs legal assistance filing a trademark for the business name and logo.
25-1011 Pro Bono			Dispute: Trademark Protection: Design 25-1011 Client is a custom porch creation LLC. Client had social media accounts taken down due to trademark complaints. Client needs advice on how to maintain business without violating third-party trademarks. Client also needs assistance drafting client agreements.
25-1010 Pro Bono		Theater	Dispute: Employment: Theater 25-1010 Client is a playwright, comedian, and theatrical designer. Client was employed as a counselor at a theater company. Client quit position after employer refused their request for equal pay. Client needs assistance evaluating claim for wage discrimination.
25-0995 Pro Bono		Visual Art	Landlord-Tenant: LLC: Photography 25-0995 Client is an LLC that rents a space as a gallery, school, and gathering space for visual journalism. Due to nearby construction and flooding, the space is no longer suitable for any of these purposes. Client's land-lord has been unresponsive to these issues. Client needs assistance terminating the lease agreement and evaluating compensation for losses.
25-0975 Pro Bono		Non-Profit	Nonprofit: Formation/Maintenance: Architecture 25-0975 Client is an architecture and design NFP. Client needs help obtaining 501(c)(3) status.

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25-0963 Pro Bono		Film/TV	Contracts: Licensing: Film/TV 25-0963 Client is filmmaker. Client is developing a short film and needs assistance obtaining the proper permissions and drafting an operating agreement related to the film.
25-0962 Pro Bono		Non-Profit	Not for Profit Advice 25-0962 Client is a theater NFP. Client is in the process of updating our bylaws, rebranding, and searching for a new performance space. Client needs legal assistance with contracts and agreements to support rebrand and relocation.
25-0961 Pro Bono		Film/TV	Contracts, Disputes 25-0961 Client is a photographer and videographer. Client entered into agreement with artist to direct and film a music video. Client needs assistance enforcing contractually protected crediting rights.
25-0960 Pro Bono		Music	Employment, Disputes 25-0960 Client is a musician. Client's contract for the following year was rescinded by her employer after she complained that her supervisor spoke to her inappropriately. Client is seeking assistance in negotiating the severance agreement, and evaluating claim for lost wages as she is unable to find comparable employment.
25-0956 Pro Bono		Arts Education	Landlord-Tenant: Nonprofit Advice: Arts Education 25-0956 Client is a NFP arts and culture museum. Client is seeking assistance terminating a lease agreement.
25-0955 Pro Bono		Performance Art	Trademark Infringement, Trademark Protection 25-0955 Client is a music and comedy duo. Client recently discovered that a book has been published using the same name as Client. Client is seeking to stop the author and publisher from using this name.
25-0954 Pro Bono		Literature	Estate Planning: IP Valuation: Literature 25-0954 Client's mother passed away leaving catalogue of published novels. Client needs help with IP valuation and setting up arrangements for the estate to receive royalty payments going forward.
25-0948 Pro Bono			Dispute: Patent Protection: Product Design 25-0948 Client works in industrial design. Client had employment with large consumer electronics manufacturer. Client significantly contributed to design of a major product line, but was not credited in the filed patent, causing lasting harm to client's professional career. Client seeks assistance evaluating claims for correcting patent authorship and/or damages.
25-0946 Pro Bono		Literature	Trademark Registration: Literary 25-0946 Client is a production company. Client needs help registering the name of the business as a trademark.
25-0943 Pro Bono		Music	Copyright Registration: Music 25-0943 Client is the mother of a deceased musician. Client is seeking assistance registering copyright protection for late son's music catalogue.

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<u>25-0929</u> Pro Bono		Non-Profit	Estate Planning: Memorial Fund: Visual Art 25-0929 Client set up a memorial fund for deceased brother's estate, which includes collection of brother's artwork. The fund was then registered as an NFP. Client seeks legal advice on probate process, sale of artwork, and maintaining the established NFP/memorial fund.
<u>25-0928</u> Pro Bono		Visual Art	Employment: General Policies: Visual Art 25-0928 Client is an artist and educator. Client had job for many years as teacher, but was placed on a do not hire list. Client needs legal assistance in evaluating employment discrimination claim regarding placement on do not hire list as well as rejecting Clients formal request to be removed from this list.
<u>25-0920</u> Pro Bono		Music	Contract Review: Employment Agreement: Music 25-0920 Client is a musician/performer. Client worked with an entertainment company as an independent contractor. Client needs help evaluating whether the degree of control and nature of the work relationship would classify Client as employee and if so, Client needs help enforcing employee rights.
<u>25-0902</u> Pro Bono		Non-Profit	Dispute: Records Request: NFP 25-0902 Client is a NFP production company. Client bought an LLC, listing a board member on the founding documents. This board member is no longer on NFP board, and has subsequently brought civil action demanding financial records for the LLC. Client has produced records in response to this request and needs representation for the completion of the proceedings.
<u>25-0895</u> Pro Bono		Literature	Dispute: Publicity Rights: Literature 25-0895 Client is in film and television production. Client needs assistance asserting rights of privacy and publicity against an author whose character bears Client's full name and other identifying features.
<u>25-0893</u> Pro Bono		Film/TV	Copyright: Film/TV: Licensing 25-0893 Client is a film and television distribution LLC. Client needs assistance drafting agreements with independent filmmakers to facilitate film distribution on physical media.
<u>25-0891</u> Pro Bono		Film/TV	Copyright Infringement: Film/TV 25-0891 Client is a screenwriter. Client needs an attorney to represent them in a mediation to obtain compensation as well as credit for a television show that was created using client's copyrighted work.
<u>25-0889</u> Pro Bono		Non-Profit	Nonprofit: Formation/Maintenance: Art Education 25-0889 Client is an art education NFP. Client recently restructured and is looking for a legal review of the Board approved changes to Client's bylaws.
<u>25-0888</u> Pro Bono		Film/TV	Copyright Protection: Film/TV 25-0888 Client is a group of documentary filmmakers. Client needs evaluation of distribution rights in 2 films. For one film, the distribution company went bankrupt and its unclear if they sold distribution rights as part of liquidation, the film is still streaming on a major platform, but client is currently receiving no royalties. For the other film, client needs help evaluating whether distribution agreement has been fulfilled, as they would like to distribute the film elsewhere.

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25-0884 Pro Bono		Performance Art	Nonprofit: Formation/Maintenance: Performance Art 25-0884 Client is a NFP school for the performing arts. Client seeks to register for tax exempt status. Client also needs help registering the name and logo of the NFP for trademark protection.
25-0864 Pro Bono		Arts Education	Nonprofit: Formation/Maintenance: Music 25-0864 Client is an educational music NFP. Client received a sales tax exemption denial from IL Department of Revenue. Client needs assistance understanding why the exempt status was denied and how to go about obtaining tax exempt status.
25-0836 Pro Bono		Performance Art	Employment: Harassment 25-0863 Client is a performing artist. Client recently left a service job after filing a complaint of harassment. Client would like assistance evaluating cause of action around harassment and retaliatory behavior.
25-0834 Pro Bono		Visual Art	Copyright Protection: Image/Video: Licensing 25-0834 Client is a visual artist. Client needs help understanding and registering works as part of a classroom learning game. Client also needs assistance with licensing agreements to display and sell other artists' work.
25-0833 Pro Bono		Film/TV	Dispute: Breach of Contract: Documentary Film 25-0833 Client is a documentary filmmaker with an existing contract for distribution. Client would like assistance to evaluate a claim for breach of contract based on a lack of efforts to solicit the film, as well as distributor claims for improper costs not associated to client.
25-0830 Pro Bono		Arts Education	Dispute: Collection: Grant Funding 25-0830 Client is a performing arts education NFP, which has received state agency funding for several years. After an audit of client finances, client was informed of improper paperwork, resulting in placement on the stop payment list, and a determination that previously paid funds must be reimbursed. Client would like assistance to evaluate the ability to appeal this determination, and a possible cause of action for violation of the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.
25-0820 Pro Bono		Literature	Content Clearance: Music/ Literary 25-0820 Client is a Ukelele performer and instructor, and would like to self publish an instruction book. Client needs assistance to review the content of the book for third party copyright clearance issues, and if necessary to draft documents securing rights in third party copyrights, likenesses, and publishing.
25-0816 Pro Bono		Visual Art	Dispute: Breach of Contract / Copyright Infringement: Visual Art 25-0816 Client is an illustrator and graphic artist, and created works for use by an Illinois company under limited terms. Company did not acquire sufficient rights in these works but has continued to use them outside of the allowed scope. Client would like to evaluate a cause of action for breach of contract and/or copyright infringement.

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25-0795 Pro Bono		Arts Education	Dispute: Breach of Contract and Discrimination 25-0795 Client is a former student at a well known Chicago Arts Institution, and claims discrimination based on a disagreement with school administrators. Client was prohibited from in-person participation and presence on campus, and would like to evaluate the ability to take legal action based on these administrative actions.
25-0760 Pro Bono		Product Design	Trademark Registration: Product Design 25-0760 Client is a video producer who created a novelty product, and would like assistance to evaluate the ability to register trademark in the product name. Client would also like help to draft an agreement with a product design professional and third party licenses for logos to be included on the product.
25-0730 Pro Bono		Film/TV	Dispute: Copyright Infringement: Film/ TV 25-0730 Client is a writer, director and producer who co-owns a film which was released in 2018. Client recently discovered that other co-owners of the film property have created a concept for a spin-off game show, without proper license or consent from Client. Client would like to evaluate a cause of action and/or send a demand letter.
25-0721 Pro Bono		Music	Copyright Protection: Music / Education 25-0721 Client is a NFP which conducts a large scale battle of the bands and music festival each year. Client has developed a system to evaluate and judge musicians, as well as curriculum and other materials for establishing a long-running and reputable music competition. Client would like assistance to create a process to license their system to other organizations, for use in curriculum or to create similar events and to draft necessary license agreements.
25-0719 Pro Bono		Visual Art	Dispute: Breach of Contract: Visual Arts 25-0719 Client is a fine arts student, and was approached by two individuals at a gallery internship, to provide administrative services for a private art exhibition at a large public venue. Client performed all services, but was told that the individuals cannot afford to pay her because of financial issues. Client needs assistance to send a demand letter and evaluate further legal action.
25-0652 Pro Bono		Film/TV	Dispute: Nonpayment: Film/Television 25-0652 Client is a theater company staffer and freelance television producer who worked as a production assistant for a reality show production company. Client worked several days without pay, and production company refuses to pay or respond to demands. Client would like assistance to evaluate legal action to recover compensation.
25-0632 Pro Bono		Music	Probate: Musician 25-0632 Client is a teaching artist in California. After her mother passed away in Illinois, her estate is now administered through probate. Client has reason to believe that her siblings are trying to exclude certain assets from Client's interests, and would like an attorney to represent her interests in an administration hearing.

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25-0628 Paying		Arts Education	<p>Dispute: NFP Board Governance</p> <p>25-0628 Client is a board director for a southern Illinois arts NFP. The board has been in conflict for decades, and there are competing claims by several board members regarding the board status and rights of certain individuals. Client has been served with petition for preliminary injunction, and would like local counsel in St. Clair county to appear in consultation with another LCA attorney who will advise about board governance questions.</p>
25-0605 Pro Bono		Music	<p>Disputes: Employment Discrimination</p> <p>25-0605 Client is a jazz vocalist and instructor. Client believes she has been the victim of racial discrimination in her workplace based on a contract renewal offer, and has filed a complaint with the EEOC. Client would like an attorney represent her in EEOC mediation which is scheduled to take place in July, 2025.</p>
25-0578 Pro Bono		Visual Art	<p>Dispute: Breach of Contract: Visual Arts</p> <p>25-0578 Client is a design and visual arts company with a commercial lease for studio space in a multi-use artist community building. The lease required ninety days notice for termination, but landlord management company terminated client's lease with two days notice, and then improperly revoked security access, depriving client of access to their leased property as well as equipment and personal property. Client needs immediate assistance to evaluate the ability to reinstate possession and if necessary bring action for breach of the lease.</p>
25-0554 Pro Bono		Visual Art	<p>Dispute: Real Estate: Visual Art</p> <p>25-0554 Client is an artist and teacher. Several years ago, client was evicted from a condominium that she owns, based on an unpaid balance from the condominium association. Client does not believe that the eviction process was performed correctly, and has not been able to obtain current information from the management company in order to reinstate rights to the property. Client needs assistance to evaluate the ability to regain possession.</p>
24-1168 Pro Bono		Literature	<p>Dispute: Trademark Infringement</p> <p>24-1168 Client NFP publishes the New Art Examiner. Client needs assistance to enforce a trademark use agreement against a foreign publisher using their marks, as well as help to recover domain control from a former board member.</p>
24-1093 Paying			<p>Corporate: Succession Planning</p> <p>24-1093 Clients own a successful bookstore in Andersonville. They would like to create a succession plan and Business Sale documentation, which may include a "Purpose Trust" or a deferred equity sale to a current staffer.</p>
24-1020 Pro Bono		Non-Profit	<p>Dispute: Breach of Contract: Visual Arts</p> <p>24-1020 Client is a nonprofit foundation which hired a third party to produce video and other marketing materials. Client paid freelancer, but has not received materials, including domain control and a co-produced video, and needs assistance to draft a demand letter and evaluate further legal action.</p>

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24-0983 Pro Bono		Visual Art	Dispute: Reimbursement: Visual Art 24-0983 Visual Artist received a commission from a major municipality to install a visual art piece in a public facility. Due to contractor delays, the project is significantly overbudget and the Visual Artist has been forced to cover some of these overages herself. The municipality is withholding the final payment. Previous LCA counsel has been negotiating a revision to the original agreement with the municipality and sent a demand letter for payment which has not yet received a response. Counsel expects this matter to require litigation and referred the matter back to LCA. Visual Artist needs counsel to recover the additional expenses or other form of relief.
24-0884 Pro Bono		Visual Art	Dispute: Collection: Visual Arts 24-0884 Visual artist was the victim of a scam perpetrated by a commercial landlord. Previous LCA counsel was able to obtain a judgment in her favor for the full amount of damages. She now needs counsel to help enforce the judgment.
24-0789 Pro Bono		Literature	Dispute: Publishing Account Access: Literature 24-0789 Children's book author set up a self-publishing account with a large online book distributor more than 10 years ago. They are no longer able to access the account, as they no longer have access to the original phone number on file. They need counsel to communicate with the distributor and regain access to the account.
24-0637 Pro Bono		Visual Art	Dispute: Visual Artists Rights Act: Mosaic 24-0637 Nonprofit visual arts school specializing in mosaic art rents operates a physical location with a back patio/parking lot. This area shares a fence with the restaurant next door. The school and restaurant are tenants of the same landlord, and the shared fence is a common feature owned and maintained by the landlord. The school installed three mosaic works on their side of the fence with the permission of the landlord. Recently, the restaurant decided to expand portions of their back patio area, and, without permission from the school or landlord, instructed contractors to cut portions of the fence as part of this expansion, including portions of the fence where the mosaics were hung. The contractors cut off sections of two of the three mosaics. The school needs counsel to help evaluate a claim under the Visual Artists Rights Act, or any other form of appropriate recourse, and, if appropriate, assist with recovery of damages.