

CTA GROUP LEGAL SERVICES

What is a Group Legal Services (GLS) attorney?

GLS attorneys are a network of attorneys with their own law practices who provide legal services to CTA members. They are well-versed in education and labor law and are familiar with issues that arise for teachers, e.g., credential problems, permanent teacher dismissals, layoffs, employment-related criminal charges, and other. The attorney bills CTA directly.

I want to speak with an attorney about an issue—how do I receive a referral?

First, you should always bring work related issues to the attention of your union, the Twin Rivers United Educators (TRUE). Many issues can be resolved by TRUE. Your issue might be resolved by filing a grievance on your behalf, which can only be filed/handled by TRUE. GLS attorneys do not handle grievances.

Your TRUE representative will determine whether you need to be referred to a GLS attorney, and will handle the referral for you, so that CTA -not you- will be charged for the initial advice and consultation. **As a current TRUE/CTA member you may be entitled to receive one free hour of advice and consultation in a civil employment-related matter and a half-hour free advice and consultation in a non-employment matter.** Agency fee payers (non-members) are not entitled to receive GLS services.

Are there other requirements in order to be referred to a GLS attorney?

Yes. You must have been a TRUE/CTA member at the time of the incident giving need for legal services and at the time the request for legal services is made. You must also keep your TRUE/CTA membership current while receiving legal services. In addition, to avoid conflicts of interest, a member who is asserting a claim against TRUE or CTA is ineligible for a GLS referral.

A family friend is an attorney. Can I see him and expect CTA to pay for it?

No. CTA will not pay for attorney services if the attorney is not a GLS attorney, nor will it pay for services of a GLS attorney if you bypass the TRUE/CTA process and contact a GLS attorney directly, without a referral. A member must use the attorney assigned by CTA to his or her case.

What funding is available to my GLS attorney?

Refer to "GLS Member Summary of Benefits" at www.CTA.org for more information on basic funding. The CTA Legal Dept. can authorize additional funding in cases that are significant or precedential.

What happens if funding is denied on my case? Is there any appeal process?

Yes. You may request funding from the Advisory Panel on Legal Services (APLS), which consists of CTA members. An application and supporting documents must be completed and sent to Rachel Quiles of the CTA Legal Department in Burlingame; for an application call (650) 552-5425. The panel meets about 4 times a year and reviews applications for appeal and decides on granting all or part of the funding requested or denying it. Their decision then goes to the CTA Board of Directors, who have the final say on the appeal.

Why can't I call the CTA Legal Dept. and speak with a staff attorney?

There are currently 9 staff attorneys in the CTA Legal Department and about 325,000 CTA members. Given that ratio it would be impossible for staff attorneys to answer questions from all members in the state and attempt to handle their caseload at the same time. CTA staff representatives work with chapters on potential legal issues and may contact staff attorneys when such issues arise.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

