

Dear Friends,

As we celebrated Independence Day, we saw the Supreme Court ruling in favor of a private businesswoman denying services to a protected class of citizens while, at the same time, ruling against private universities' efforts to increase campus diversity, including representation of protected classes of citizens.



Bet Tzedek is so disheartened and angered at hearing the news of the *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis* Supreme Court ruling. As Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in her dissent, it is a "sad day in American constitutional law and the lives of LGBT people." She goes on to explain, "Today, the Court, for the first time in its history, grants a business open to the public a constitutional right to refuse to serve members of a protected class ... By issuing this new license to discriminate in a case... the immediate, symbolic effect of the decision is to mark gays and lesbians for second-class status."

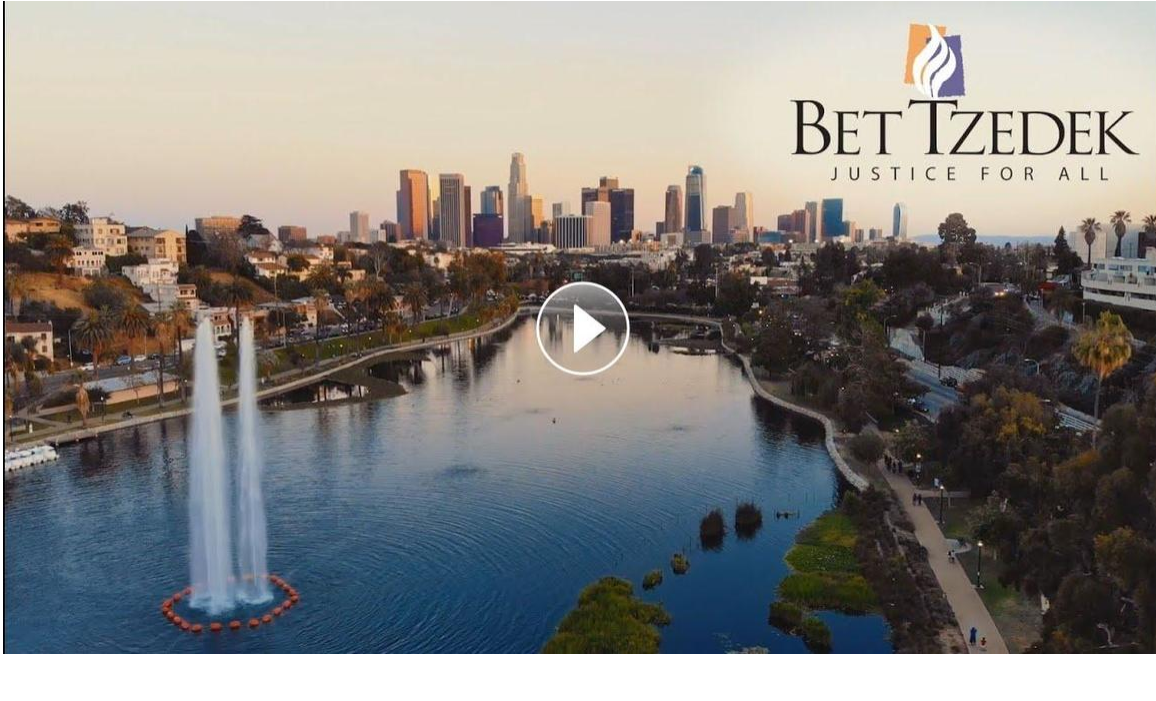
Bet Tzedek has been serving all communities in Los Angeles — regardless of sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity — since we opened our doors in 1974. During that nearly 50-year history, Bet Tzedek has assisted countless members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Our advocacy has included representing LGBTQIA+ community members facing unlawful evictions, helping gay and lesbian couples draft advanced health care directives to ensure loved ones can care for each other, seeking reparations owed to those in the community by the German government, and assisting transgender immigrant youth seeking refuge in the U.S.

Seven years ago, Bet Tzedek established its Trans Advocacy Project after witnessing an overwhelming and increased need to provide representation on behalf of transgender community members facing employment, housing, public accommodations, and health care access discrimination. Establishing this program — and serving as allies to, and members of, the LGBTQIA+ community — has been a point of tremendous pride and perpetual growth.

Read [the rest of the statement](#) about how **Bet Tzedek stands with LGBTQIA+ communities**. You can view our posts on social media celebrating Pride Month featuring important historical moments, court cases, facts, and figures in the community, by following our accounts at the bottom of this news digest.

## Watch Bet Tzedek in Action

Check out our latest "Snapshot" video encapsulating an overview of our program areas, highlighting the impactful stories of the clients we've served, and showcasing our incredible staff and board members:



## Summer for Justice Law Interns Take Over Bet Tzedek!

We are excited to welcome **42 distinguished law students and undergraduates** from across the United States to Bet Tzedek's Summer for Justice internship! Among our diverse interns are both international and first-generation American students. With experiences ranging from teaching to working as a marketing consultant to being a community organizer, these exceptional students hail from schools like UCLA, Duke University, Occidental College, Washington University in St. Louis, UC Berkeley, the University of Chicago, Southwestern College, Tulane University, and University of Southern California. They will be embedded with our amazing team of in-house experts across all the critical program areas we cover. Our interns' contributions to our organization and to the client communities we serve will be significant in our ongoing effort to "bend the arc" towards social justice!

You can learn more about our Summer for Justice interns through our social media accounts via the links at the bottom of this email.

**#BetTzedekSummerforJusticeInterns**



## An Alarming 1 in 10 Adults in the County Struggle with Medical Debt

The L.A. County Department of Public Health's *Medical Debt in L.A. County: Baseline Report and Action Plan* — to which Bet Tzedek has contributed — presents valuable new information. This includes how personal medical debt in our county now tops an alarming \$2.6 billion. A shocking [one in 10 adults in the county struggle with medical debt](#), with families with children, and lower-income, BIPOC, and chronically ill adults being disproportionately affected. The report lays out collaborative recommendations that can reduce the medical debt burden including: collecting and sharing additional data related to medical debt, fully implementing new fair billing and collection laws, improving financial assistance programs, investing in medical debt relief, and strengthening local coalitions to address medical debt.

[READ THE ENTIRE REPORT HERE \(ENGLISH AND SPANISH\).](#)

## Pro Bono Opportunity: Help a Senior Create an Estate Plan

**Case Description:** Ms. S is a retired senior renting an apartment in Burbank. She moved to California from the Midwest to be closer to her adult son who was left permanently disabled after a motorcycle accident. Ms. S is living on a fixed income and would like to leave her life savings to her three children, including her disabled son and two adult daughters. She does not currently have a will or any estate planning documents. Ms. S' children are all designated beneficiaries on the client's financial accounts, but she is worried that if her disabled son receives money when Ms. S passes, this may negatively impact his eligibility for Medi-Cal. Her son currently receives Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, Medicare, and Medi-Cal.

**Work Required & Deadlines:** Meet with Ms. S and prepare estate planning documents that meet her wants and needs.

**Staffing:** This case is best suited for an experienced estate planning attorney.

**If interested, contact Director of Pro Bono Programs, Sara Levine, at [slevine@bettzedek.org](mailto:slevine@bettzedek.org).**

## Join the Bet Tzedek Team!

Have a passion for helping underserved residents in the community? Want to work alongside dedicated staff and volunteers who help upwards of 100,000 people per year?

**Here are some critical positions we need to fill, plus more (see button below):**

[DIRECTING ATTORNEY: ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMS](#)

[DIRECTING ATTORNEY: INTEGRATED COMMUNITY & HOLOCAUST SERVICES](#)

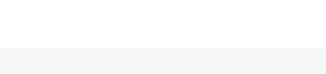
[Apply to Work with Us Here](#)

## Help Us Improve the Lives of Angelenos

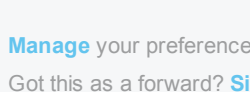
Since 1974, Bet Tzedek has provided free legal services to individuals and families who struggle each day with legal and social injustices. Please join us in our mission to help!

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