

Summary of Common Differences between Lawyers and Nonlawyer Legal Service Providers

	Lawyers	Licensed Paraprofessionals	Community Justice Workers	Court Navigators
Who They Are	Licensed professionals who practice law.	Paraprofessionals who are licensed to deliver specified legal services in accordance with applicable regulations.	Nonlawyer members of a community who are trusted to deliver specified legal services to community members.	Nonlawyers who help self-represented litigants with legal forms, information, and court processes.
Qualifications	Advanced degree (J.D.), Bar exam passage, and license to practice law.	Varies by state, but may include a degree or certificate, a license, and/or practical law-related training and experience.	No legal experience needed, topic-specific training provided on ethics, procedure, and/or applicable substantive law.	No legal experience needed, topic-specific training provided.
Primary Occupation	Lawyer employed by law firm or other organization.	Legal paraprofessional/ paralegal employed by law firm or other organization.	Employed elsewhere in a non-legal role including, for example, social work, healthcare, or education, operating as a community justice worker, often expanding on non-legal services they're already providing.	May be employed by a court or organization or may provide services on a voluntary basis, typically through a court or organization.

Supervision	Oversight provided by courts and licensing boards.	Oversight provided by lawyers and by licensing boards in jurisdictions where they are licensed.	Oversight provided by local legal services organizations.	Oversight provided by court or organization in which they are providing services.
Common Practice Areas	All	Consumer Debt Domestic Violence Estate Planning Family Law Housing Probate SNAP Benefits Veterans' Benefits	Consumer Debt Domestic Violence FEMA Applications Housing Indian Child Welfare Act Medical Debt SNAP Benefits Unemployment Benefits	Civil Matters Generally Consumer Debt Domestic Violence Elder Abuse Family Law Housing Probate Small Claims
Who They Serve	Paying clients, may also provide assistance on a pro bono basis to those who cannot afford a lawyer.	Paying clients as part of a leveraged legal team, may also provide assistance on a pro bono or reduced fee basis to those who cannot afford a lawyer.	Low-income individuals who cannot afford a lawyer and generally are not otherwise accessing legal services.	Low-income individuals who cannot afford a lawyer and generally are not otherwise accessing legal services.

Chart prepared by Riley Kelly, PBI Intern