



*Executive Director:* Ellen Leitzer, J.D.

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## **PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

**December 17, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Senior Citizens' Law Office, Inc. (SCLO) is pleased to announce the hiring of Brwyn Downing as its new Executive Director, upon the retirement of current Executive Director and co-founder Ellen Leitzer. Ms. Downing will step into the position on January 1, 2021.

Ms. Downing is familiar with SCLO and its mission of providing free or low-cost legal representation and systemic advocacy for central New Mexico seniors based on her work for SCLO, as a paralegal and then staff attorney, between 2014 - 2019, when she left to become Assistant General Counsel for the state Aging and Long-Term Services Department. Ms. Downing is a *cum laude* graduate of the UNM School of Law.

SCLO was founded in Albuquerque in 1983 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation by Patricia Stelzner and Ellen Leitzer. Since 1983, SCLO has expanded its services to include Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and Torrance counties, and now reaches an estimated 4500 seniors per year. SCLO assists New Mexico seniors with a variety of legal issues including housing (foreclosure and eviction defense), access to healthcare and benefits, advance directives, and consumer debt and fraud. Pursuant to state public health orders, most of SCLO's legal services are being conducted remotely, including court hearings, until it is safe to resume in-person legal assistance.

Pre-COVID, SCLO conducted monthly educational presentations at senior centers, congregate senior housing sites, and other venues. Currently, SCLO provides informational presentations bimonthly on Facebook, and via Zoom upon request. All New Mexicans are invited to view these presentations, along with informational videos and brochures on SCLO's website. Learn more about SCLO by visiting [www.sclonm.org](http://www.sclonm.org).

**Contact:**

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