

Credit Card company tries to make money from nothing.

Susan owed \$600 on a credit card, but had a hard time paying when she lost her job. The big, bad credit card company took the matter to arbitration without bothering to give notice. Fast forward 3 years, and now the \$600 debt has climbed to over \$2,000. Susan tried to work out a payment plan but the company refused, instead choosing to file suit. Judge William Maki appointed CVLS under the Access to Justice Program and **Andy Patton** from **Leon Zelechowski, Ltd.** took the case. When he demanded that the credit card company prove they owned the loan, they folded up their table and walked away from the case. Sometimes, all you need is a lawyer to make the other guys play by the rules.



Keep us updated in 2010.

In this rollercoaster of an economy we know that many of our friends and volunteers have changed jobs and moved around since last we heard from them. If you fall into this category, please keep us updated by emailing your new contact info to jengle@cvls.org with the subject line "updated contact info". Not only does this keep us up-to-date, it gives us a chance to catch up. We haven't seen you in a while and we've missed you. Say hi to the kids for us.

New GAL Advisory Board answers your questions.

The CVLS GAL program has a new component—a GAL Advisory Board with experts willing and able to help you sort through the non-legal issues that confront the children and families that you represent. We hope to have advisory board meetings quarterly or more (based on interest and availability). The psychologists listed below will be at the CVLS office on Friday, February 26 from 12:30-1:30 and available to speak to you about specific case issues.

If you would like to attend, please email Alecia Wartowski at awartowski@cvls.org ahead of time with specific topics that you would like the experts to discuss. You are also welcome to just come and listen as GAL's and psychological professional try to sort through cases and develop positive outcomes for our clients.

Dr. James Walsh- Areas of Interest/Expertise: ADHD, adolescent psychology, anxiety, behavior therapy, child psychology, depression, family therapy, learning disabilities, mood disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), psychotherapy

Dr. Breeda McGrath- Areas of Interest/Expertise include: ADHD, adolescent psychology, anxiety, autism, child psychology, disability issues, diversity issues, eating disorders, learning disabilities, mood disorders, parenting, personality disorders, self injury, stress, testing issues

Dr. Vinita Bhojwani-Patel- Areas of Interest/Expertise include: educational evaluations, special education needs, executive functioning weaknesses and other issues related to a child's learning needs.

Please RSVP by contacting Alecia Wartowski at awartowski@cvls.org if you are interested in attending.

Amicus Poloniae offers MCLE before clinic.

Do you want to kill two birds with one stone? Well now you can. That's right, it's possible to get free MCLE credits and satisfy your ravenous hunger for pro bono at the Amicus Polonia Legal Clinic, held every third Saturday of the month! With a wide range of topics, from preparing for a jury trial, to handling an adult guardianship, these classes are fantastic. All you need to do to attend is agree to stay and volunteer at the legal clinic held immediately after the class. What a deal! For more information on the Amicus Polonia Legal Clinic or their MCLE classes please call Clinic Director **Mark Dobrzycki** at (773) 763-8520.

MCLE Class Schedule

| | |
|--------------|--|
| February 20 | Jury Trial |
| Taught by: | Fred Joshua and Khalil Khalil |
| March 20 | Violence Against Women Act: and Domestic Issues for Aliens |
| Taught by: | Juan Vaglienty |
| April 17 | Construction Law |
| Taught by: | Robert Groszek |
| May 15 | Family Law |
| Taught by: | Anna Krolikowska |
| June 19 | Employment |
| Taught by: | Alexander Fiedotjew |
| September 18 | Adult Guardianship |
| Taught by: | Ziggy Sokolnicki |
| October 16 | T.B.A. |
| Taught by: | Michelle Hendrickson |
| November 20 | T.B.A. |
| Taught by: | Mark Douglass |
| December 18 | T.B.A. |
| Taught by: | Tomasz Kaczmariski |



Photo courtesy of Kelly Tautges

ThunderDome: Novices Enter, Veterans Leave.

In the last year CVLS has seen a drastic increase in the number of attorneys looking to volunteer for a case. Many of these wanna-be volunteers are new graduates with little to no experience. While the rise in demand for legal aid has risen in kind, the support and training needed to prepare these new volunteers with our already strained resources can be difficult. That's why CVLS partnered with the Chicago Bar Foundation and Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services (CARPLS) to form our newest clinic model, ThunderDome Divorce Clinic.

This collaborative effort matches a group of around 20 lawyers each with a client who needs a divorce. CVLS holds monthly training sessions with the group and lets them work, as a group, on their individual cases and apply the skills they learned that month to their case. This classroom setting that teaches the volunteers a step at a time is not only more efficient, allowing one senior attorney to oversee a large group of volunteers at once, but also incorporates the entire litigation process into the clinic, giving the volunteers experience and confidence in a controlled environment.

-ThunderDome continued on last page.

CVLS Seminar Registration

February - March

February 23 "Preparing 2009 Income Taxes " **by Larry Krupp, C.P.A.**

Larry Krupp will interpret and explain the latest version of the tax code. He will discuss changes and concerns that can affect your business, your personal finances and those of your clients.

March 31 "Overview of Workers Compensation " **by Howard H. Ankin**

While Workers Compensation is an area of law that CVLS doesn't handle, it is something that all attorneys should know about. Every attorney has heard about "work comp" but what, exactly is that? Many of our clients have had work comp claims, or, at least, think they do. Do they? What does a work comp attorney look for when pursuing a claim? What procedures must be followed and how does a work comp hearing work? Howard H. Ankin, who practices in this area exclusively, will provide a simple overview of Workers Compensation law and process for attorneys who do not practice in the area.

All seminars are held from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. at 100 North LaSalle, Suite 900.

Archived seminars can be found at www.illinoisprobono.org.

Return to: Seminar Registration, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
100 North LaSalle, Suite 900, Chicago, 60602.2405
FAX:312-332-1460
EMAIL: jengle@cvls.org

Please Print Your Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____



ThunderDome continued:

“Bringing in that many inexperienced attorneys and trying to give them individual training and support becomes very time consuming very quickly,” says Philip Mohr, CVLS’ Director of Family Law and overseer of the ThunderDome Divorce Clinic. “We needed to find a way to use all of these inexperienced attorneys and still give them the quality training and support for which CVLS is known. That’s how ThunderDome came about.”

The clinic inherited its name from the 1985 Australian action film, *Mad Max Beyond ThunderDome*, featuring a young Mel Gibson and a big haired Tina Turner. In the movie criminals and prisoners are forced to do battle inside the steel mesh cage called ThunderDome. The rules of ThunderDome are simple: Two men enter, one man leaves.

While that theme might be fitting for some divorce cases, the real driving force behind this clinic model is described in its tagline: Novices enter, veterans leave.

The clinic has been so successful in taking these new volunteers and turning them into pro bono powerhouses that Access to Justice Director Patricia Nelson recently started a ThunderDome Mortgage Foreclosure Defense Clinic and a third is currently in the planning stages.

Not every case is complicated. Not every volunteer needs to be a legend in their field of law. Sometimes all that is needed is manpower and the willingness to help where help is needed. We’ve got the manpower, now thanks to this clinic model we’re able to give them the tools they need to make a difference.

Random Fun Facts

- Underground Railroad was established, Feb. 1, 1838
- Patent for the “Bottle Cap” received, Feb. 2, 1892
- The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated, Feb. 7, 1910
- The first adhesive postage stamps were introduced, Feb. 15, 1842
- The nation’s first 911 system went into effect, Feb. 16, 1968
- Supreme Court overturned United States law for first time, Feb. 24, 1803

Sudoku!

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | | | | | | | | |
| | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 | | | | 8 |
| | 5 | | 1 | 2 | | | 4 | |
| | 2 | 6 | | | 5 | 7 | | 1 |
| | 8 | | 7 | 1 | 4 | | 6 | |
| 3 | | 7 | 6 | | | 8 | 5 | |
| | 4 | | | 5 | 1 | | 8 | |
| 9 | | | | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | |
| | | | | | | | | 5 |

Difficulty: Easy

**CHICAGO
VOLUNTEER
LEGAL
SERVICES**

100 North LaSalle Street, Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60602

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, IL
Permit No. 5170