Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events

12/16
CVLS Holiday Party
CVLS Office
5:00 to 7:00 PM

12/25
CVLS Closed
Christmas

1/1
CVLS Closed
New Years Day

1/27
Seminar: “Online Resources for Pro Bono Attorneys”
by Terry Ross
CVLS Office
12:15 to 1:15 PM

2/23
Seminar: “Preparing 2009 Income Taxes”
by Larry Krupp
CVLS Office
12:15 to 1:15 PM

Holiday Open House Invitation
(To the tune of “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree”)

Rocking around Chicago’s Loop
It’s a pro bono party hop
To hang with Chicago’s wildest group,
100 N. LaSalle is where you stop.

You will get a sentimental feeling when you’re here.
Our open house is the best.
Come and put us to the test.

December 16th at our place
It’s time you came on down.
Whether or not you finish your case,
It’s the best deal in our town.

Come by yourself or bring your friends,
There’s no need to RSVP.
Starts at 5 and at 7 it ends
Everyone will party hearty.

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services invites you to our Annual Holiday Open house on December 16th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. We hope that you will be able to attend for some good food, good company, and good cheer!
Friend’s daughter turns squatter.

Annie and her husband owned a two-flat. After he passed away, she decided to move out of the house and rent it to make ends meet. Fortunately, one of her friends had a daughter looking for a place who agreed to rent one of Annie’s units. Not long after the lease was signed Annie’s friend also passed away and the new tenant, no longer concerned about her mother’s relationship with her landlord, stopped paying rent. Not wanting to be too harsh Annie gave the tenant a month to resume paying rent before she took action. Unfortunately at the end of the month Annie had a stroke and was in to the hospital for a while which made collecting rent or seeking an eviction impossible.

Annie’s tenant didn’t pay any rent throughout Annie’s convalescence. By July, however, Annie had had enough and filed an eviction lawsuit on her own. The tenant retained counsel and filed several counterclaims for damages. She alleged that the eviction was retaliatory as a result of the tenant’s complaints about the apartment’s condition. Seeing where this was headed, the court recommended that Annie obtain legal representation and she came to CVLS. Extended placement attorney Emily Garrison took the case and worked hard to challenge the counterclaims. After extensive negotiations, Emily successfully obtained an order of possession for Annie and the countersuit was dropped. In November, a full year after the tenant had stopped paying rent, she was evicted. Now Annie can now move on from this horrible experience. Great work Emily.

Our garrison gets a little smaller.

CVLS has been privileged to have had Emily Garrison as part of our team for the last 10 months but on December 31st her time with us will be over. Emily has worked, full time, for CVLS since March, courtesy of McDermott Will & Emery’s extended placement attorney program. Boy, has she used her time well! From bankruptcy, to landlord tenant and collection issues, Emily’s caseload has run the gamut.

So Emily, let us just say to you that when you’re gone the sun will no longer shine as brightly, nor foods taste as sweet. Providing equal access to justice to all will be that much tougher without your eagerness, perseverance, talent and dedication to our clients. Thank you for the good times.
Thank you for the new computers!

CVLS would like to thank volunteer paralegal Rich Summins and Clausin Miller PC for their very generous donation of two desktop computers. As a not-for-profit, we don’t always have the money to buy new computers and we often use them until they all but fall apart. This donation means that we will finally be able to replace a couple of our prehistoric models with new lightning fast desktops. Thank you very much.

Eviction cases simplified.

Attorney Wayne Shapiro held a fantastic seminar in November focusing on what attorneys need to know to evict a tenant. Mr. Shapiro discussed the law and procedures for handling a forcible entry and detainer case, including practice tips to help make the process flow smoothly. By the end of the seminar our attorneys were given everything they needed to know to help a residential landlord oust a bad tenant. Thank you Mr. Shapiro.

The Holidays are a time for sharing.

The Holidays are a time for family and friends. It’s a time to gather your loved ones and to give thanks for all that you have. This holiday season, please remember those who are not as fortunate. Please take a moment to think about the family who is being foreclosed on this winter, or the child that needs someone to look out for their best interests.

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services has served people in your community who have nowhere else to turn for over 45 years. We are fortunate to have a great group of volunteer attorneys who are willing to take cases that others won’t, and willing to show compassion when others scorn. We thank you dearly for your commitment to decency and respect for your fellow human beings. We hope to continue this very important work of bringing equal access to justice to everyone, not just those who can afford it, for another 45 years.

We need your help. Today everyone is feeling the effects of the downturn in the economy. Once reliable foundations who have donated to CVLS for years, and new foundations we hope will fund us, have been hit hard by interest rates hovering around $0. With our critical donor base under financial pressure, we need you, our volunteers and friends, now more than ever.

$97 is all it takes to keep a child safe from abuse or to prevent a family from losing their home to foreclosure. $97 is our per-case cost to provide the poor and working poor with equal access to justice in a wide range of civil legal aid. Whether you contribute $97 or $97,000, your support will change lives. Equal access to justice is everyone’s right and everyone’s fight. Make it yours. Contribute today at: www.cvls.org.
November 12 was a momentous night for Chicago’s legal community. Gathering at Sidley Austin LLP, CVLS volunteers and friends were treated to fantastic food, great wine and, most importantly, the recognition they deserve for all their hard work protecting Chicago’s most vulnerable citizens. The Honorable Maureen E. Connors was presented with the distinguished Court of Honor award for her work in creating and supporting a panel of pro bono guardians ad litem and a Distinguished Service award was given to Sidley Austin LLP for its work with CVLS’ Hull House Legal Clinic.

To all of our volunteers who were honored that night, thank you for your great work and please keep it up in 2010!
Left - Heidi Schmid and Lindsay Dansdill received an award for their service with the Our Lady of Mercy Legal Clinic.

Below - Matthew Kriezelman and his father Jeff Kriezelman pose with Meg Benson after Matthew received his distinguished service award.

Above - Peter Cheun, Matthew Kriezelman and Daniel Thomann all stood out this year as they volunteered with the AILA legal clinic.

Right - Karen Bowes, Folarin Dosunmu, Laverne Hill and Carolynne Paulsen posing after receiving awards for their work with the Guardian Ad Litem for Minors program.
CVLS Seminar Registration
Winter 2009

There will be no seminars in December.

January 27 “Online Resources for Pro Bono Attorneys” by Terry Ross of Illinois Legal Aid Online

This training will cover the online resources available to pro bono volunteers at www.IllinoisProBono.org. IllinoisProBono.org is an innovative website that provides Illinois attorneys, law students and other legal professionals with online resources for obtaining necessary training and support to do pro bono work. Website users can watch a video training, do legal research, use HotDocs forms for their pro bono cases, and find out what news and events are happening in the pro bono and legal aid communities.

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.

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: __________________________________________________________
CVLS Haikus

All work is done free
Our volunteers are the best
Free does not mean cheap

Help someone in need.
Gain experience. Feel Good.
Where? CVLS.

Twelve voicemails. Court call.
Where’s the bathroom key?

Staff helps attorneys
Who represent the clients.
Justice equalized

Financial times are hard.
But we continue to serve.
Thanks to our donors.

New faces. Old desks.
Small budget. Enormous task.
We do it for free.

Foreclosure pending.
No money. No where to turn.
Call CVLS.

No drive up window.
We don’t have lawyers to go.
Call for appointment.

Deadline approaching
Petitions, motions, research.
Where are the interns?

Random Fun Facts

-Theodore Roosevelt was the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize, December 1, 1906
-The Bill of Rights went into effect, December 15, 1791
-The Boston Tea Party occurred, December 16, 1773
-Henry Ford completed his first successful gasoline engine, December 24, 1894
-New York City was blanketed with 25.8 inches of snow, December 26, 1947

Sudoku!

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