

DHS victimizes single mother over food stamps.

Kimberly S. had lived a volatile life with her alcoholic boyfriend. She tried to make it work for their 2 children, but Greg's drinking and chronic job jumping and unemployment finally made that impossible. First, she filed for an order of protection and refused to let him return home. Then, she applied for and received food stamps. Unfortunately, a few months later the Department of Human Services charged her with a food stamp overpayment of several thousand dollars. Kimberly's boyfriend had used her address when he applied for a job. Although she wasn't receiving the benefit of his wages, DHS had included him as part of her family and refused to back down. When Kimberly filed an administrative review case against DHS, Judge Rita Novak appointed CVLS to represent her under the Access to Justice Program. Volunteer **Ankur Shah** stepped in to defend Kimberly and get the overpayment overturned. When DHS agreed to give Kimberly a new hearing, Ankur said no—he didn't want her to endure a new hearing. His persistent advocacy on Kimberly's behalf paid off when he convinced the court to remove the overpayment without a new hearing. Kimberly is on her way to a life without her abusive boyfriend and with DHS off her back.



Paralegals we have. Lawyers we need.

Have you ever found yourself working late at night on a particularly tough CVLS case? Have you often wished that someone could help you draft pleadings, or submit your court documents, possibly even help with your research? Come on, you can admit it. We're all friends here. I thought so. You want someone. Nay, you NEED someone. Well don't fret, CVLS is here for you like we always are. We just so happen to have paralegal volunteers who are just itching to help out and do some pro bono work. Think about it, you and a paralegal standing side by side fighting injustice and bringing the sweet smell of equality under the law to the less fortunate. It brings tears to our eyes just thinking about it. I know you are a little misty eyed yourself so stop pretending you have allergies.

If you are interested in obtaining your very own volunteer paralegal to help you with a CVLS case, call Terri Hooker at:

312-332-6436

Please remember that this is for CVLS cases only.

Seminar on estate planning a success.

On October 14th, **Mary-Ann Wilson** of **Harrison & Held LLP** gave a fantastic seminar on simple estate planning and wills. The seminar filled up quickly for this ever-popular topic. A frequent speaker on estate planning and administration, Mary-Ann was able to demystify and boiled down to basics what CVLS volunteers need to know on the subject. CVLS would like to thank Mary-Ann for all of her hard work preparing such a helpful seminar for our volunteers.

Thanksgiving is a time for sharing.

November 26th is a day we are all looking forward to and for good reason. Thanksgiving is our excuse to “accidentally” cheat on our diets, or to veg out and watch the football game on the old telly, maybe even try your hand at deep frying that beer marinated turducken. All good things. However, when you’re sitting around the table giving thanks this year please remember those who may not be as fortunate.

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services has served people in your community who have nowhere else to turn for over 45 years. We too have been fortunate to have such 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

Junior Board comes on the scene in a big way.

Ladies and gentlemen, attorneys and paralegals, CVLS has the very special honor of introducing to the law community at large our very own Junior Board. Yes, that’s right, we have a Junior Board. What, pray tell, is a Junior Board? Well we’re glad you asked.

Our Junior Board is a collection of the very best young attorneys from various firms and partnerships in Chicago. To highlight our point, let us just say that **Brion Doherty of Stotis & Baird** is the Junior Board Chair with **Maura Harrington of Feinberg & Barry, P.C.** as Second Chair. Impressed? Well that’s just a taste. We have other big names on the board such as **Emily Schmidt of Horwitz, Richardson & Baker LLC**, **Jordan Heinz of Kirkland & Ellis LLP**, **Avani Patel**, **Joshua Heidelberg of Bell Boyd & Lloyd LLP**, **Mona Thakkar of Direct Buy**, **David Wolff of Duncan Associates Attorneys and Counselors**, **Patrick Spangler of Vedder Price**, **Shelly Merkin of Schiff Hardin LLP**, **Katherine Sams of ArcelorMittal USA**, **Shennan Harris of Mayer Brown**, **Rachael Mamula of McDermott Will & Emery LLP**, **Patrick Croke of Sidley Austin**, **Eileen O’Connor of Michael E. Sweeney & Associates**, **Kimberly Halvorsen of Clifford Law Offices**, **Derek Holland of Bryan Cave**, **Libby Pozolo of Winston & Strawn LLP**, and **Michelle Marek of Howrey LLP**. What a list! It’s a veritable smorgasbord of who’s who and where’s where of the legal community. So don’t be surprised when you see them making some big waves and bringing the fight for equal access to justice to all to the law schools, to the firms both big and small, to downtown, to uptown and around town! They are here to get things done and by golly nothing had better get in their way.

Friends, let us give thanks this day, for we truly are thankful that these young stars are fighting on our side.

Junior Board hosts Vino & Van Gogh fundraiser.

October 16th, 2009 was a day that changed the world. It was the kind of day that historians will debate and professors will lecture their students about. They'll use it as an example of how a small group of dedicated young attorneys can, in one night, spread the news about pro bono to over 100 professionals unfamiliar with the organization, all while viewing incredible art and sipping delicious wine.

CVLS' Junior Board hosted their first annual fundraiser, Vino & Van Gogh. A huge success, it filled the Zolla/Lieberman Gallery to the brim with young professionals interested in learning about CVLS and the work that we do. Party goers were treated to delicious catering donated by **Augustino's Rock and Roll Deli** as they listened to the smooth melodies of the SlaughterTown Strings. Everyone had a great time and, best of all, they learned a little bit more about CVLS.



(top) Catering was donated by Augustino's Rock and Roll Deli, (bottom-left) Junior board member Emily Schnidt enjoying the night with some friends, (bottom-right) Junior board chair Brion Doherty gives a speech about CVLS to the crowd



You are cordially invited to attend

**CHICAGO
VOLUNTEER
LEGAL
SERVICES**

*Because equal access to
justice is everyone's fight*

2009 Annual Award Ceremony

**Including the presentation of the
Court of Honor Award
to**

The Honorable Maureen E. Connors
Circuit Court Judge of Cook County
Probate Division

**and the
Law Firm Award
to**

Sidley Austin LLP

and many more distinguished CVLS volunteers.

Thursday, November 12th, 2009
5:30 to 7:15 pm

hosted by
Sidley Austin LLP
One South Dearborn

CVLS Seminar Registration

Fall 2009



November 17 "Representing Landlords in Eviction Cases " by Wayne Shapiro

Attorney Wayne Shapiro will be focusing on what you need to know to evict a tenant. Mr. Shapiro will discuss 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 you will be given everything you need to know to help a residential landlord oust a bad tenant.

There will be no seminar in December.

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: _____



The noble turkey.

When people picture the United States they often think of the Bald Eagle, but there was one founding father who thought very differently. Benjamin Franklin had this to say about the bag of feathers:

“For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish, and is bearing it to his Nest for the Support of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him.

“With all this Injustice, he is never in good Case but like those among Men who live by Sharping & Robbing he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides he is a rank Coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the District. He is therefore by no means a proper Emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our Country . . .

“I am on this account not displeased that the Figure is not known as a Bald Eagle, but looks more like a Turkey. For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America . . . He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on.”

-Excerpt of Benjamin Franklin’s letter to his daughter, Sarah Bache, January 26, 1784

That should give you something to think about this Thanksgiving.

Random Fun Facts

- Synthetic diamonds were first manufactured, November 17, 1959
- The British Army evacuates New York City, November 25, 1783
- The first successful Boeing 707 flight occurred, November 27, 1962
- The first skywriting display occurred, November 28, 1922

Sudoku!

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

Difficulty: Hard

**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