



## Grieving mother victimized by bank.

Although Ms. Davis' son asked her to co-sign his bank car loan, he never gave her anything to sign. She thought no more about it because he got the loan and made his payments regularly. Then, he died. As Ms. Davis was grieving, the bank contacted her claiming that she was the actual purchaser. When she didn't make payments, they quickly repossessed the car, sold it and sued her for deficiency balance of \$26,000.

With little options, Ms. Davis went to CVLS' Visitation Church legal clinic and explained the situation to CVLS volunteer **Adam Ingber**. Adam took the case and filed his appearance. While the bank refused to settle for anything less than the full amount, they had not turned over all of their discovery, until Adam moved to compel production. Those missing documents proved to be interesting. Not only was the credit application unsigned, the monthly payment shown was \$560-too much for Ms. Davis' social security income. As soon as Adam confronted the bank's counsel with these documents, they agreed to voluntarily dismiss the case.

Thanks to Adam's hard work, Ms. Davis can now grieve for her son without having to fight off a rapacious, ethically-challenged creditor. Once again equal access to justice was available because of the dedication of a CVLS volunteer.

## Patricia Nelson named ILAO's Advocate of the Month.



*Photo courtesy of Illinois Legal Aid Online*

Congratulations to Director of CVLS' Chancery Court Access to Justice and Circuit Court Foreclosure Mediation programs, **Patricia Nelson**, for being Illinois Legal Aid Online's Advocate of the Month for February. Patty has tirelessly defended her underprivileged clients during her 14 year history with CVLS and continues to do so today. "It's inspirational to see how focused and driven she is," says CVLS' Managing Attorney, Peter Ashmore, "Patty's never one to be complacent or satisfied with being comfortable. She challenges the staff and strives to make CVLS and the rest of us the best that we can be."

We are very proud of her and are grateful that she uses her talents to further CVLS' mission of equal access to justice. Good work Patty.

To view ILAO's interview of Patty visit:  
[cvls.org/news/patricia-nelson-named-ilaos-advocate-month-february](https://cvls.org/news/patricia-nelson-named-ilaos-advocate-month-february)

# The Parentage and Child Support Court of the Domestic Relations Division has relocated.

CVLS volunteers please note that, effective February 15, the Parentage and Child Support Court of the Domestic Relations Division, formerly known as the Expedited Child Support Section, moved to the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, CL24. Don't forget to update your records.

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## Brach William Blaney-Koen



Congratulations to CVLS volunteer Daniel Blaney Koen and his wife Lisa on their Christmas Day baby boy, Brach William Blaney-Koen. The excited new parents, working hard on that whole first time parent thing, were kind enough to pass along a picture of Brach's first bath. Adorable. Congratulations both of you!

## Volunteers needed for divorce cases with domestic violence issues.

A divorce is never easy but when you add domestic violence into the mix it gets down right nasty. CVLS' new Apna Ghar Family Law Clinic provides the quality legal representation for divorce and other family law issues that victims of domestic abuse desperately need. CVLS family law director Phil Mohr helps train new volunteers in domestic violence, divorce and other family law for this new clinic. If you are interested in helping to meet this significant need, contact CVLS' Clinic Coordinator Michael Edelberg at [medelberg@cvls.org](mailto:medelberg@cvls.org).

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## Keep us updated.

Life happens. We know how it is. You move . . . get a new job . . . get married . . . and all of a sudden you have to update your contact info with basically everybody you know. It's rough. We've all been there. With everything that's going on, it can be easy to forget to update some pretty important players in your life, like your grandmother or your friendly neighborhood CVLS. We understand, but it plays havoc on our database. So if your contact info has changed recently please send us an update at: [jengle@cvls.org](mailto:jengle@cvls.org). Thank you!

# CVLS Seminar Registration

## **March 2 "Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Training" Cook County Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court, 2-5 P.M.**

CVLS staff will train volunteers to represent homeowners in pre-trial mediation. Attendees will learn: Basic information about mortgages and the foreclosure process; why mediation is an important tool for conflict resolution and how the mediation process works; how to effectively represent your client in foreclosure mediation including information about relevant federal foreclosure relief programs, loss mitigation and negotiating a graceful exit. Volunteer attorneys with all levels of experience are welcome to attend. If you have questions or would like to register for the training, please contact Dan Santrella, 312.332.7521 or [dsantrella@cvls.org](mailto:dsantrella@cvls.org).

## **March 29 "Litigation" by Kristen Hudson**

Roll up your sleeves and join CVLS Board Member and volunteer Kristen Hudson, from Schopf & Weiss LLP who will discuss and debunk best practices for litigation prep.

Please visit [www.cvls.org/seminars](http://www.cvls.org/seminars) to register

*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](http://www.illinoisprobono.org).*

## Robert Groszek named president of the Advocates Society.



On February 17th **Robert Groszek** of Groszek Law Firm was honored by the Advocates Society by being appointed their new president. The Advocates Society has been serving the legal profession, the Chicago area Polish American community, and the community at large since 1931. Robert, a CVLS volunteer and long-time co-chair of the Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic, uses his experience in civil litigation to protect the rights of Polish Americans in the Chicago community. CVLS would like to congratulate Robert for his new position and the Advocates Society for their excellent choice of leadership. We are sure that he will continue striving to improve the lives of the underprivileged in the community and to protect the rights of those who are unable to protect themselves. Congratulations Robert, you deserve it!

## ThunderDome: Special Education Advocacy

The neediest of children in Chicago don't have the money to force the school to do its job. Pro bono attorneys have the skills, compassion and dedication to get the job done. Join CVLS as we bring access to justice to Chicago's most vulnerable children.

ThunderDome: Special Education Advocacy combines structured training and pro bono casework for skilled litigators, who want to cause individual change for their clients and systematic change for 53,000 Chicago children often denied federally mandated access to a free and appropriate public education. Attorneys will build skill and knowledge in special education law and practice as they handle a case and receive specialized training in a collegial group setting at monthly sessions.

### JOIN US ON

February 24, March 17, April 7 and April 28  
Noon to 3 pm

CLE Credits will be provided (ethics credits will be provided pending approval)

Please contact Alecia Wartowski at **312.332.1916** or **arw@cvls.org**.

We ask that attorneys commit as individuals or teams to all four trainings so that they have the support to successfully complete their case.



**THUNDERDOME LEGAL CLINIC**

Novices Enter, Veterans Leave.

## Depreciating assets.

As Guardian ad Litem for a disabled adult, CVLS volunteer **Ellen Beth Gill**, noticed unusual notations on one of her ward's bank statements. After looking online for information, she learned that the notations referenced disability insurance provided by one of the bank's subsidiary companies. It appeared as if disability insurance premiums were being automatically deducted from the ward's account, despite the fact that the account had been frozen by court order and that the ward was disabled.

When Ellen asked the branch assistant manager about the withdrawals, he gave her a telephone number for someone else at the bank. Unable to get anyone to talk to her, she wrote the bank a demand letter, which was ignored. Subsequent letters and telephone calls were also ignored. Ellen discovered, through more internet research on consumer websites, that people had registered multiple complaints involving this bank and subsidiary, including the fact that they were automatically signed up for insurance without their agreement, or offered free insurance, but charged for it after a period of time. Neither the Guardian nor the ward remembered ever agreeing to purchase disability insurance through the bank—especially since the ward was disabled when the account was opened.

Ellen's Petition for issuance of a Citation to Discover Assets against the bank was granted by the court. In addition to documents pertaining to the client's accounts, her petition demanded all agreements between the bank and the subsidiary and all advertisements sent to, displayed or otherwise communicated to bank customers. Her goal was to find evidence of a violation of the Illinois Fraud and Deceptive Practices Act.

Once news reached the bank that Ellen was looking into their deceptive practices, all of the money plus most of the missing interest was returned to the client's account. At the next court date, the bank's representatives were nowhere to be found.

Because some of the interest was still missing the Judge ordered that the Citation remain open for further investigation. The Illinois Attorney General's office referred Ellen to the federal authority that regulates national banking organizations. Ellen continues to investigate and work with the authorities to protect her ward and, possibly, the public. Great work Ellen!

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## Sponsorship now available!

Great news race fans! Sponsorships for Race Judicata® 2011 are now available. Don't have a huge budget for advertisement? No problem! Race Judicata® offers sponsorships in multiple price ranges each offering fantastic benefits. Benefits include both online and print advertisement, logo placement on race t-shirts, discounts on tent rentals and much more! For more information on how to sponsor or the benefits that are included with sponsorship check out Race Judicata® central at: [www.cvls.org/judicata](http://www.cvls.org/judicata).

If you would like to sponsor the race please fax a copy of your completed sponsorship form to 312.332.1460, mail it to Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, 100 N. LaSalle St., Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60602, or email it to [mnp@cvls.org](mailto:mnp@cvls.org). Still have questions? Call 312.332.3319 and we'll be glad to answer them!



# SPONSORSHIP FORM

2011

Questions? 312.332.3319 or [mnp@cvls.org](mailto:mnp@cvls.org)

**My company would like to sponsor Race Judicata® 2011 at the following sponsorship level:**

### Sponsor Level

- |                          |            |         |
|--------------------------|------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TRAINER    | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CAPTAIN    | \$3,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PACESETTER | \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MEDALIST   | \$7,500 |

### Tent Size

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NO TENT              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SMALL \$499* (\$649) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LARGE \$599* (\$749) |

\*Sponsorship required for discounted tent rental price.

**TOTAL:**

### Sponsor Information:

COMPANY NAME (as it will appear on marketing materials)

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

Make checks payable to CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES. Submit form and payment to CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES, 100 North LaSalle St., Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60602-2405.

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