

Foreclosure prevented thanks to mediation.

The five-year balloon payment was due on Carol's home equity loan. As the economy has made it impossible to refinance right now, she could not make her payment and the bank filed to foreclose. The case went to mediation, and CVLS volunteer **Colleen Stevenson** took the case. The foreclosing bank was willing to look at refinancing it themselves, but refused because the property had two recorded judgment liens. Colleen negotiated short payoffs for both the liens and got them released. She then convinced the foreclosing bank to refinance the home equity loan rather than taking the house. Carol's house was saved thanks to Colleen's efforts. Great job Colleen.

Bank pays for ransacking house.

Colleen (a client—not our volunteer) was in the early stages of the foreclosure process when she came home to find that her house had been broken into and the locks had been changed. Belongings were missing and there was damage to the building. CVLS volunteer **Emma Scott** took the case and spent many months negotiating a reasonable settlement for her client. Colleen walked away from the house with no liability and a handsome check in her pocket for the damages.

Court makes changes to Adoption Procedure.

County Division Presiding Judge Edmund Ponce de Leon issued a new Administrative Standing Order for adoption procedures, effective October 17, 2011. The Order vacates the prior Administrative Standing Orders for adoptions. From now on, all adoptions will be randomly assigned to a specific adoption calendar/judge upon filing. Each of the five adoption judges is assigned a day of the week. When you file your case, it will be assigned to a calendar/judge before whom you'll bring the initial presentation of your Petition for Adoption. Each judge hears his or her call on one specific day of the week. This means that you can no longer file your adoption petition and go to court that same day. For example, now, if you file on Tuesday, the judge you're assigned to may have his or her call on Thursdays. The Order does permit cases to be brought the same day if they are designate as "expedited". As this time, it is presumed that the expedited process should be used only in exceptional situations rather than routinely. Relevant information from the Court regarding adoptions can be found on the Court's website, <http://www.cookcountycourt.org/divisions/index.html>, within the County Division. Contact Phil Mohr at CVLS (philmoehr@cvls.org) for a copy of the Order. In addition, he can send you CVLS' updated adoption materials.

Another Case of Name Change?

As part of the Legal Aid Bureau's 125th Anniversary celebration year, they are excited to announce that they are returning to their historic roots: **The Legal Aid Bureau will now be known as the Legal Aid Society.**

In 1905 their founding agency, the *Protective Agency for Women and Children*, merged with *Clarence Darrow's Bureau of Justice* to become the *Legal Aid Society*. Later, they merged with Metropolitan Family Services and took the name Legal Aid Bureau.

Under the name *Legal Aid Society* they joined forces with Jane Addams to found the country's first law school clinic; were the first to offer legal help to survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking; provided free representation for defendants in criminal court until the Public Defender's Office was established in 1930 and successfully advocated for progressive laws that addressed predatory lending, wage theft, child sexual assault and outlawed child labor. **Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and William Howard Taft** all lent their names to the cause of equal justice as honorary Vice Presidents of the *Legal Aid Society of Chicago* in 1915. So many followed their lead that "Legal Aid Society of..." still remains the most popular name for legal service programs around the country.

While the name has changed, their mission stays the same: protecting and strengthening families by providing them with supportive social services and access to the legal system. They continue to offer free legal advice, representation and education on issues of domestic violence, housing, consumer rights, elder law and elder abuse.

You can visit their website at their new URL: www.metrofamily.org/las.

CVLS Junior Board member makes partner.

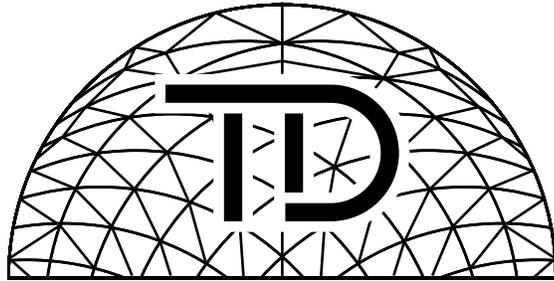


CVLS Junior Board Member and Kirkland & Ellis Partner, Jordan Heinz

Congratulations to CVLS Junior Board member, **Jordan Heinz**, for being named partner at **Kirkland & Ellis LLP**. Jordan not only engages in fundraising efforts for CVLS as part of his duties on our Junior Board, but he also helps to facilitate the distribution of Adult GAL and Access to Justice cases to Kirkland volunteers.

Jordan started his legal career working as a PILI Fellow at CVLS and has since been recognized as an outstanding attorney both at his firm and in the legal aid community. Past achievements include two Outstanding Service Awards from CVLS, two Kirkland & Ellis Pro Bono Service Awards, Illinois Legal Aid Online's Attorney of the Month, and the 2011 Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award from the Chicago Bar Foundation.

We look forward to watching Jordan continue his excellent work in the Legal Aid world. With his help we are sure that many more Chicagoan's will have access to justice that would have otherwise been denied to them.



THUNDERDOME LEGAL CLINIC

Novices Enter, Veterans Leave.

NEWLY-ADMITTED ATTORNEYS & ATTORNEYS LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCE

DISCOVER THE NEW THUNDERDOME DIVORCE CLINIC

*A COLLABORATIVE VENTURE BETWEEN
CVLS AND THE CBA/CBF*

- Are you an attorney licensed in Illinois by 12/6/11
- Do you want to handle a pro bono divorce case, but have no experience
- Can you commit to handling a simple divorce case through to the end (approximately 6 months)
- Can you commit to attending 2 hour clinic sessions at 5 pm on each of the following dates: 12/6, 12/13, 1/3, 2/7, 3/6, 4/3 & 5/1
- Do you enjoy working and learning in a group
- Do you want up to 5 hours of MCLE credit for participating

ENTER THE THUNDERDOME DIVORCE CLINIC

*For more information or to sign up please contact Phil Mohr at
philmohr@cvls.org by November 30th.*

**CHICAGO
VOLUNTEER
LEGAL
SERVICES**

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

**TheChicago
Bar
Foundation**

**Ensuring
access
to justice
for all**

CVLS Seminar Registration

January 24 "TRO's, Preliminary Injunctions & Declaratory Judgments" by Jerry Brown

TRO's, injunctions and declaratory judgments—extraordinary remedies that most attorneys who litigate run into from time to time. Yes, you learned something about them in law school, but unless you are a regular in Chancery Court, you may not be familiar enough with the why's and how's of them. Litigator Jerry Brown knows. An Adjunct professor at John Marshall Law School, he teaches Remedies to law students and is now willing to give CVLS volunteers a brush up on the subject. In addition to summarizing the law, Jerry will focus on specific procedural issues for Cook County practitioners.

February 22 "Preparing 2011 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 or those of your clients.

Please visit 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.

Three new faces.



Ashley Griffith

Please join us in welcoming our three new staff attorneys, Ashley Griffith, Allegra Fischer and Keri Lindsay. These legal warriors will be working with Patricia Nelson on the Circuit Court of Cook County Foreclosure Mediation Program.

Before joining CVLS as a Staff Attorney, Ashley worked at private firm primarily dedicated to mortgage rescue fraud defense litigation and commercial real estate. Additionally, Ashley has interned with the Chicago Legal Clinic and volunteered at its Chancery Advice Desk.

Allegra represented families in the child welfare system, and, during law school, she interned at several public service agencies in Chicago. Prior to practicing law, Allegra contributed to various non-profit anti-poverty initiatives in Miami, Chicago and Washington, D.C.



Allegra Fischer

Keri externed with CVLS in 2007 and following graduation worked as a staff attorney and pro bono coordinator at the



Keri Lindsay

Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing. Keri represented tenants in eviction court and advocated for large tenant groups in building court.

Welcome everyone.

Baby News:



Aleksandr Morris Edelberg

CVLS Clinic Coordinator Michael Edelberg and his wife Jenya had their baby boy on October 19th. Weighing in at 8lbs 1oz, Aleksandr Morris Edelberg, nicknamed Sasha, came into this world with a full head of hair. Mom and Dad are doing just fine and thank everyone for their well wishes.



Genevieve Lorraine Marie Mesco

Genevieve Lorraine Marie Mesco was born on July 20th, 2011 at 7:25 a.m., weighing 6 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 19 inches long. Her mom is Clinic Chair of the CVLS FCC LaGrange Clinic, Christina Hynes Mesco, and dad is CVLS volunteer, Nic Mesco of Tressler LLP. While Genevieve is their first baby, she is also the new little sister to their 7-year old cat, Tinkerbelle.

Mark Furlane Elected Secretary of FBA Chicago Chapter.

CVLS Volunteer and Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP partner Mark E. Furlane has been elected secretary of the Federal Bar Association's Chicago Chapter. The election means Furlane will become president of the organization in three years.

A former lawyer for the U.S. Marine Corps, Mark has extensive trial experience. In private practice for more than 30 years, focusing on employment law, he has successfully litigated numerous class actions and individual actions in state and federal courts — both trial and appellate — as well as in arbitration forums. Mark litigates all aspects of employment law, especially areas of employment discrimination and harassment, retaliatory discharge and whistleblowers, restrictive and confidentiality covenants and trade secrets. He also represents clients in individual and collective actions under ERISA, including actions brought by the United States Department of Labor. He also represents corporations and executives in the negotiation and litigation of executive compensation-related matters, as well as separation agreements.

Mark has been a volunteer at CVLS for many years and we are very pleased to hear about his election. Congratulations Mark, you deserve it.

Ellen Douglass honored by the CBF.

Ellen E. Douglass, long time CVLS volunteer, former board member and current chair of the CVLS Trinity United Church of Christ Legal Aid Clinic, was honored by the Chicago Bar Association and Chicago Bar Foundation at their 12th Annual Justice John Paul Stevens Award Luncheon.

Ellen has made a career out of service to others. Shortly after her graduation from Northwestern University School of Law, she joined CVLS as a volunteer, quickly distinguishing herself. She revitalized one of CVLS' original neighborhood clinics, the Liberty Baptist Church Clinic, which was struggling due to a lack of volunteers and leadership. Things quickly changed when Ellen agreed to become clinic chair and, within a short time, fifteen new volunteers supervised by Ellen were providing free legal services twice a month to low-income clients from all over the city's South Side.

As clinic chair, Ellen not only recruited and organized clinic volunteers, but she handled a significant number of the cases from the clinic. Then an attorney with the SEC, Ellen chaired this clinic for 10 years. When Ellen decided to leave government for the private sector, eventually opening her own law office, she continued to take cases from CVLS and also regularly accepted pro bono appointments from the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In 2006, Ellen approached CVLS with an idea for a new legal aid clinic at the Trinity United Church of Christ. Ellen brokered a partnership between the church and CVLS and now she chairs the CVLS/TUCC Clinic. We are pretty sure she never sleeps.

Congratulations Ellen!

**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