CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight

September 2011

Mark Your Calendars Now!

10/13
New Volunteer Orientation
CVLS Office
12:00 PM

10/14
Vino & Van Gogh
Room 1520
7:00 PM

10/18
Seminar: Special Topics in Child and Family Evaluations
by Darlene Perry
CVLS Office
12:15 PM

10/24
Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Training
321 S. Plymouth Court
3 PM

11/15
Seminar: Personality Disorders
by Darlene Perry
CVLS Office
12:15 PM

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

Grandparents clash after horrific murder.

Luis and Linday's father beat their mother unconscious and then called his brother over to help him clean up the crime scene. Hours later he called the children's maternal grandmother, E, who arrived to find her daughter unconscious in the middle of the living room. E called an ambulance and the daughter was admitted to intensive care where she later died. After the father turned himself into the police, the children went to live with E.

E enrolled her grandchildren in a private grade school and put them in therapy. She filed a petition for guardianship of the children and for an order of protection against the paternal grandparents, suspecting them of helping to cover up the domestic violence and murder. The paternal grandparents responded with their own petition for guardianship.

The court appointed CVLS as the children's guardian ad litem and volunteer **Blake Hanson** of **K&L Gates** took on the job. The paternal grandparents told him that they wanted their son to come live with them and the children once he was released from prison. The children's therapist said that the children were suffering from post traumatic stress from witnessing repeated acts of domestic violence and had significant bereavement issues because of the sudden loss of their mother. Noting that the children feared the father and his family, he recommended that the children not have any contact with the father or his family for at least 6 months.

Blake took these facts into consideration and recommended to the court that E's petition for guardianship be granted. The court agreed and the children now have a chance to put this tragic event behind them while they adjust to their new lives.

Great work Blake.

Opportunities available at the Asian American Legal Services Clinic.

ATTENTION ALL ATTORNEY'S- CVLS' Asian American Legal Services Clinic, co-sponsored by Asian Human Services, DLA Piper and CVLS, is looking for attorneys to join this great pro bono neighborhood legal clinic. You'll get to meet and counsel clients face-to-face and put your legal skills and knowledge to good use. Located at 4753 North Broadway, the clinic meets the 1st Wednesday evening every month from 6:30 to around 8:00. Contact Michael Edelberg, Clinic Coordinator, CVLS (medelberg@cvls.org) to check out this exciting pro bono opportunity, where plentiful parking, public transportation & pizza are always on the docket!

Golf Fore Justice a huge success!

It may have been a bit chilly but on June 9th CVLS' friends and volunteers braved the elements and helped make the 10th annual Golf Fore Justice a huge success. Thanks to everyone's participation and support, CVLS raised over $20,000! Pictures of the event are available at cvls.org/galleries/golf-fore-justice-2011. Thank you to everyone who attended the event and to all of our sponsors. Without you we would not be able to provide equal access to justice to those in need.

Long time CVLS volunteer appointed as Corporate Counsel.

Congratulations to Stephen Patton for his appointment as Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. According to Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, "Steve Patton is a consummate professional and is widely recognized for his sharp legal mind. "I am pleased that Steve has agreed to lend his services to the city as Corporation Counsel."

Steve Patton, formerly a senior litigation partner at Kirkland & Ellis, has displayed a commitment to serving the people of Chicago throughout his career. Patton, a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, serves on the College's Selection Committee for Northern Illinois University. A long time CVLS volunteer, he has been active throughout his career in civic and charitable causes, including serving as President of the Chicago Bar Foundation and om CLVS' Board of Directors and Advisory Board. He was also a recipient of the Illinois State Bar Association's 2000 Pro Bono Service Award. Congratulations Steve. We are sure you will do a great job and be a beacon for equal access to justice within the mayor's inner circle.

CVLS welcomes our new attorney.

Eric Sutton, CVLS Staff Attorney

CVLS would like to introduce Eric Sutton, a new member of our family. When Shirley Chiu left us for the bright lights of Washington DC, leaving a giant hole to fill, we were distraught. We needed someone with guts, someone with class. We needed a bulldog who could look opposing counsel in the eye and never flinch. Eric Sutton is our bulldog in the foreclosure mediation program and in the Chancery Court Access to Justice Program where he works tirelessly helping low income homeowners keep their houses. Thanks to Eric, foreclosure victims can breathe a sigh of relief.

Look out, because this legal warrior is taking no prisoners.

Don't miss the third annual Vino & Van Gogh

Are you tired of the same old routine? Wake up, go to work, go home, sleep. Boring! Why not spice things up with a night of excitement?

CVLS' Junior Board has just the thing, the third annual Vino & Van Gogh. What is Vino & Van Gogh and how can I become a part of this amazing event you ask? Vino & Van Gogh is your opportunity to have a few glasses of wine while talking to new and old friends while your eyes feast upon the works of Chicago's up and coming art community. This year's event will be held on October 14th at Room 1520, a historic loft building just west of the loop.

Bring your significant other and show them that you are one cultured Chicagoan. Make deep, insightful comments on the artwork and impress your friends. This event can quite literally change the way people look at you.

What are you waiting for? Register today for the premier fall event of the year.

For more details visit:

www.cvls.org/vinovangogh

We have a new Board of Directors.

As one fiscal year draws to a close and another begins, so too must we say goodbye to some board members and hello to others.

First let us say farewell to **Kelly Warner** of **Schiff Hardin**, *Ann Spillane* of the **Office of the Illinois Attorney General**, **Maria Mendoza Troxclair** and **Howard Yussman** of the **Illinois Appellate Court** as their term expires and they retire from our Board of Directors. **Ellen Duff** replaces **Brent Vincent** of **Bryan Cave** as our new Ex-Officio. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to providing equal access to justice.

As we grieve the loss of our legal leaders we can rejoice in the fresh faces we have obtained to replace them. Please welcome our five new board members **Mirut Dalal** of **McAndrews Held & Malloy**, **Kimberly Kayiwa** of **Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney**, **Latonia Haney Keith** of **McDermott Will & Emery**, **Donna Otis** of **Otis Law Group** and **Bertha Serrano** of **Drinker Biddle & Reath**. We are very excited to have these new additions to our Board of Directors.

Our leadership has also changed. **David Goldhaber** of **Sedgwick Detert Moran & Arnold** has become our new president, **Kristi Nelson** of **Chen Nelson Roberts** our new Vice-President of Finance, **Christopher Skey** of **DLA Piper** our new Vice-President of Development, **Daniel O'Rourke** of **Vedder Price** our new Vice-President of Client Services, **Eliza Cumberland** of **Grant Thornton** and **Kevin Fee** of **Sidley Austin** as our new Executive Committee members.

Congratulations one and all.

CVLS' Junior Board enters its third year.

As CVLS' Junior Board enters into it's third year we must say goodbye to our member's who's terms have expired. Mona Thakkar of DirectBuy Corporate, Eileen O'Connor of O'Connow Law Group and Libby Pozolo are all retiring from the board. They will be missed and we would like to thank them for their service and commitment to our cause.

It's not all bad news though. We are fortunate enough to have picked up some new members who are excited and ready to make a difference. **Monique Bhargava** of **Winston & Strawn**, **Gerg Hawver** also from **Winston & Strawn**, **Jed Rosenkrantz** of **Sidley Austin**, **Matthew Schiltz** of **Schiff Hardin** and **Molshree Sharma** of **Mandel Lipton Roseborough and Sharma** have agreed to serve as our new Junior Board members. Congratulations everyone and welcome to the team.

Kimberly Halvorsen of **Clifford Law Offices** has stepped into the role as Chair of the Junior Board, replacing **Maura Harrington** of **Feinberg & Barry** who is our new Ex-Officio. **Emily Schnidt** of **DeAno & Scarry** was named Second Chair and is overseeing the planning and implementation of the Junior Board's yearly fundraiser, Vino & Van Gogh. **Michelle Marek** of **Kaye Scholer** is the new Third Chair and is the head of the Junior Board clinic.

CVLS is very excited to work with these great young attorneys and we can't wait to see what this year's Junior Board accomplishes. Go get 'em.

CVLS Seminar Registration

October 18 "Special Topics In Child and Family Evaluations" by Darlene Perry , Chicago School of Professional Psychology Forensic Center

Darlene Perry of the **Chicago School of Professional Psychology Forensic Center** will cover an assessment approach in determing needs and care for Therapuetic Supervised Visitation.

October 24 "Foreclosure Mediation Training" by CVLS Staff

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.

3 PM to 6 PM, Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court

November 15 "Personality Disorders" by Darlene Perry , Chicago School of Professional Psychology Forensic Center

Darlene Perry of the **Chicago School of Professional Psychology Forensic Center** will discuss the key issues and concerns in working with individuals with personality disorders.

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.

Race Judicata® the biggest and best ever!

On July 21st over 4,600 Chicagoans left their air conditioning and participated in the largest and hottest Race Judicata® ever! With heat indexes above 118 degrees, runners and walkers alike showed their support for equal access to justice. Safety concerns forced the timing portion of the race to be cancelled but that didn't stop participants from pounding the pavement. Thank you to everyone who came out to show their support this year. Without the support of Chicago's communities we wouldn't be able to provide the free legal services that so many people rely on.

(Top) Drinker Biddle's team enjoying the event

(Middle-top) Katie's family was there to show their support.

(Middle-left) Phi Alpha Delta hanging out outside their tent.

(Bottom) Grant Thornton's team was the largest ever, with over 200 members!

Visit www.CVLS.org/judicata for more pictures!

(Top-left) Grant Thornton's team leaders posing with their largest team award.
(Top-right) Patois 6 entertained the crowd all night.
(Middle-top-right) Steve Patton, Corporate Counsel for the mayor, acting as the official race starter.
(Bottom-left) Derek Holland, David Strubbe and Matt Flaherty taking a break after racing each other across the line.
(Bottom-right) Williams Montgomery & John's t-shirt design team posing with the traveling trophy.

Williams Montgomery & John's winning t-shirt design.

CVLS' Chinatown Pro Bono Legal Clinic schedule change.

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS- The CVLS Chinatown Pro Bono Legal Clinic will meet on the 2nd Saturday of every month, from 10 am to 1 pm, starting with the September clinic. They will no longer have the Wednesday every other month schedule.

CVLS Receives $200k *Cy Pres* Award.

CVLS was awarded $200,000 from unclaimed settlement funds in a nationwide class action case heard by Judge Elaine E. Bucklo in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Sharing in Chicago's portion of the award, which totaled nearly $3 million nationally, were the Chicago Bar Foundation, Health & Disability Advocates and the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.

The law firms of Cafferty Faucher LLP, Milberg LLP, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC, Kanner & Whiteley LLC and Leiff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein LLP were lead counsel for the plaintiff class. Jones Day was counsel for the defense. Members of the class claimed more than 90% of the net settlement fund (i.e., the amount available for distribution after payment of attorneys' fees and expenses).

CVLS is extremely appreciative of this award, especially at a time like this, when the need is growing daily and available money is shrinking. We will continue to be fiscally prudent and will make sure that this money helps us help even more people in need.

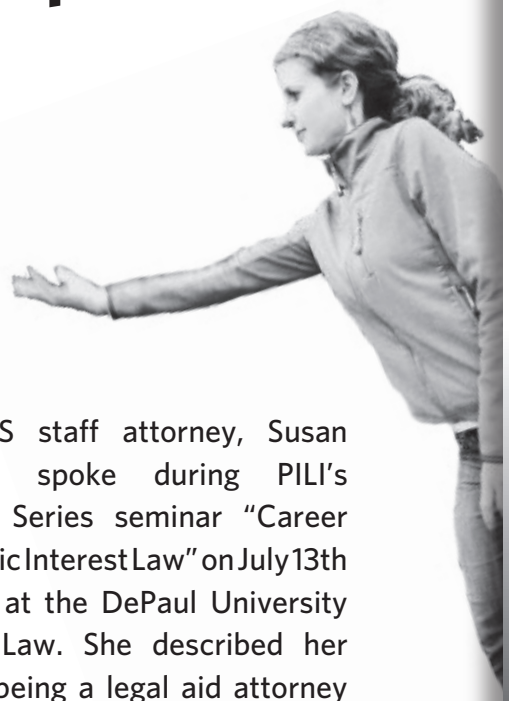
CVLS volunteer awarded for excellence.

Kyle Olson, a litigation attorney at Baker & McKenzie LLP and a CVLS volunteer, was recognized for his dedication to pro bono service as one of the 2011 recipients of Baker & McKenzie's Robert L. Berner Jr. Pro Bono and Public Service Award of Excellence. He received the award for his work with several pro bono organizations including his successful representation of a CVLS client from the Chancery Court Access to Justice Program. The client was facing an employment dispute that could have prevented her from gainful employment. Without representation, this client would have had to handle her case in Chancery Court pro se and risked having a judgment entered against her, despite the plaintiff's claims being baseless and legally flawed. Kyle handled the representation on behalf of CVLS and ultimately achieved dismissal of the client from the case.

We need your ideas!

As you know, CVLS provides free CLE seminars each month to our volunteers. We always try have seminars on interesting subjects that are relevant to our volunteers. In order to do that though we need you to tell us what you are interested in. If you have a suggestion for a future CVLS CLE seminar, please email Margaret Benson at **mbenson@cvls.org**.

Susan speaks!



CVLS staff attorney, Susan Decostanza, spoke during PILI's Educational Series seminar "Career Paths in Public Interest Law" on July 13th to students at the DePaul University College of Law. She described her experience being a legal aid attorney working with the underprivileged and answered questions from the audience.

Some of the topics she covered were possible career paths, the current job market, fellowship opportunities, and of course the importance of pro bono work and its affect on local communities.

Hopefully some of the students left with a desire to work in the legal aid community themselves. Great job Susan.

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