

Mark Your Calendars Now!



2/06

New Volunteer
Orientation
CVLS Offices
12:15 PM

2/12

CVLS Closed

2/17

CVLS Closed

2/19

Seminar:
Preparing 2013
Income Taxes
by Larry Krupp, CPA
CVLS Offices
12:15 PM



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

Green Card Success!

Jurgita, a Lithuanian citizen living in the U.S. without a green card, was the victim of domestic violence in 2009. In 2010, the National Immigrant Justice Center got her a U visa, which allows victims and witnesses of crimes who cooperate with law enforcement to remain here. People with a U visa can apply for a green card after three years as long as they continue to cooperate with the police. Jurgita cooperated to the fullest extent, even appearing in court to testify. When she decided to go for her green card, CVLS volunteer attorney **Renae Yoo** agreed to help.

Although Renae had volunteered at CVLS' AILA Clinic before, she'd never handled a green card application. Training herself as she went, Renae had to prove that Jurgita and her daughter had been in the U.S. since she got her 2010 U visa, that Jurgita had cooperated in the domestic violence case, and that a green card would ensure family unity. Renae established each necessary element, even after the ex-boyfriend's domestic violence conviction was expunged.

Thanks to Renae's work, Jurgita got her green card and a job. She likes her co-workers and feels that a huge weight is off her shoulders. Her biggest thrill was being able to visit her family in Lithuania—it had been years since she'd seen them.

"She had tears in her eyes when she came to tell me about the trip because she was not ready to leave her loved ones and come home," Renae said. "She brought me big boxes of delicious chocolates, along with some Lithuanian snacks, which I might like a lot more than getting paid for a case in the traditional way."

*"Jurgita is very happy that she and her daughter both have green cards now, and feels like a huge weight is off her shoulders."
- CVLS Volunteer
Renae*

CVLS Vouches for Client in Housing Appeal

After three years in an apartment, Cherish and her three children were about to be evicted. The Housing Authority of Cook County, who subsidized her rent, terminated Cherish's housing voucher for failing to report unemployment compensation she'd received after losing her job because of a knee injury.

The Honorable Sophia Hall appointed CVLS to represent Cherish through the Access to Justice Program. Luckily for Cherish, volunteer **Andrew Fromm** from Kirkland and Ellis agreed to handle her administrative review case in the Chancery Court. Andrew convinced the court that the Housing Authority had violated Cherish's due process rights by failing to consider mitigating circumstances. Cherish and her three children were not going to be homeless after all.

CVLS Volunteers are Super Lawyers!



Congratulations to the CVLS volunteers named on Super Lawyers Magazine's list of 2014 Top Lawyers in Illinois!

SUPER LAWYERS

Laura N. Ashmore, Lake Toback
Michael P. Cogan, Cogan & Power
Karen A. Enright, McNabola Law Group
Annemarie E. Kill, Avery Camerlingo Kill
Richard Hanus, Law Offices of Richard Hanus
Carlton R. Marcyan, Schiller DuCanto & Fleck
Marc J. Siegel, Caffarelli & Siegel
Laurie J. Wasserman, Law Offices of Laurie J. Wasserman

How are the Super Lawyers chosen? First, Super Lawyers Magazine holds peer nominations. An attorney-led research team validates the nominations through third-party research based on practice area. The top attorneys in each area are selected as Super Lawyers.

We'd like to say THANK YOU to our 2014 Super Lawyers and ALL our volunteers, for your hard work and everything you do for CVLS!

Hearsay Seminar Now Available Online

"Objection your Honor, hearsay!" Our recent seminar on hearsay, one of the most used and least understood evidentiary rules in the history of jurisprudence, is now available for online viewing.

John Marshall Law School professor Hugh Mundy led the seminar.

View the seminar for CLE credit at:
<http://cvls.org/seminar/seminar-hearsay>

Volunteer Honor Roll



As the co-chair of CVLS' Apna Ghar Family Law Clinic, volunteer **Sean Chaudhuri**, Esq. is deeply committed to helping clients affected by domestic violence and works hard to earn their trust. Sean began volunteering with the clinic when it opened in June 2010. Since then he has handled more than 20 cases, always taking care to patiently explain the procedures and potential outcomes to his clients. Sean's clients regularly express their gratitude for his ability to advocate for them in proceedings that are very difficult and, all too often, re-traumatizing.

As one of the inaugural volunteers at CVLS' Oak Park PADS Legal Clinic, **Carla Lawless** stepped up to serve as clinic chair when the founding chair retired. Aided in her work by her husband Dale, a paralegal who serves as a partner in her pro bono work, they are relentlessly dedicated to this busy clinic.



Carla has helped clients in a wide variety of cases including social security disability, family law, real estate, landlord/tenant and employment matters. Sensitive to the particular needs of this homeless population, Carla works hard to steer her clients in a direction where they will be able to better help themselves. Their work is challenging and the clients are challenging, but, according to Carla, "when you score a win, it's easy to forget all that other stuff."

CVLS: CELEBRATING OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY!

Announcing our 50th Anniversary Gala Emcee!

We're excited to announce comedian Pat McGann will serve as emcee at our 50th anniversary gala in October!

You may remember Pat from last year's Law and Disorder event, where he performed his stand-up routine.

Pat recently garnered national attention, performing on the Late Show with David Letterman on Friday, January 24!

Pat created and hosted the Emmy nominated television show "The Chicago Stand Up Project" and appears regularly on Sports Talk Live, Windy City Live, Mancow & Good Day Chicago, WGN Morning News, WGN-Radio and ESPN Radio.

Learn more about Pat by visiting his website: <http://www.patmcganncomedy.com/>

CVLS Staffer Avani has a new title!



CVLS Staff Attorney Avani Patel has a new title! Avani is now Supervising Attorney, Consumer Law.

Avani externed with CVLS while in law school and, after graduation, continued to handle a wide variety of cases as a volunteer. Hired in 2010, Avani serves as CVLS' "utility player" because of her familiarity with most CVLS case types and courtrooms.

50 Reasons to Give

This year, we celebrate our 50th anniversary!

CVLS was founded in 1964 by a young attorney named John Ferren as a response to the War on Poverty, an initiative started by President Lydon B. Johnson and at least partially inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.'s efforts in the Civil Rights Movement.

John saw a need for providing legal services to those who could not afford a lawyer, so he organized several friends and colleagues to set up clinics in church basements and neighborhood social service organizations around Chicago. This was a radical approach in 1964 and the legal establishment, once it took note, did not really approve of these volunteer attorneys who met potential clients evenings and weekends.

CVLS started with 16 attorneys, but within two years it had reached 200. Today, we have over 2,000 volunteer attorneys helping thousands of low-income Chicagoans annually. Although CVLS was the first pro bono legal aid organization, now there are thousands across the nation.

Since CVLS got its start 50 years ago, our amazing supporters have helped us grow and evolve into the organization we are today. Without your support, we would not be able to carry out our mission of offering a wide range of totally free legal services to the poor and working poor of Chicago.

Thank you for 50 years of fighting for equal access to justice. Here's to 50 more!

Make a donation online at
www.cvls.org/donate

CVLS Helps Family Keep Housing Choice Voucher

Robert, Justina and their three minor children had participated in the Oak Park Housing Authority's Section 8 housing voucher program for many years without any problem. In April, the Housing Authority terminated the family's voucher for failing to report a small amount of income and social security benefits. Without the housing voucher the family would have no place to turn but a homeless shelter.

The Chancery Advice Desk helped Justina file for an administrative review of the decision and CVLS volunteer **Matt Gardner** of Litchfield Cavo took the case for the family. Matt was able to convince the court that the Housing Authority incorrectly treated unreported income as grounds for mandatory termination of the voucher. It also was clear that the Housing Authority had failed to abide by its own Administrative Plan throughout the termination process and that the hearing officer made factual findings that were against the manifest weight of the evidence.

As a result, the court reversed the Housing Authority's decision to terminate the family's voucher. Now Robert and Justina's family still has their housing! Even before the court ruled on the matter, Justina said, "Without the representation of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, there would not have been a victory. We have already won prior to the verdict!"

After Tragedy, a Father Wins Custody

Ever and his girlfriend got pregnant, but the child's mother died while in labor from an undiscovered heart condition. She did not have any family in the U.S. At the time the child was born, Ever and his girlfriend were not married and the mother died before she could

New Chair of CVLS Indo-American Clinic



Ayesha Awan

CVLS is pleased to announce ACE Hardware Corporation attorney Ayesha Awan will take over our Indo-American legal clinic, effective January 2014. Thank you to previous chair Sheetal Parikh for your work with CVLS, and welcome to Ayesha!

Interested in volunteering with our Indo-American Clinic? It meets every 2nd Saturday from 1-4pm at 6328 N. California Ave. Contact Dan Santrella at dsantrella@cvls.org for info.

Friends of CVLS at IABA

We'd like to recognize former Indo American Legal Clinic Chair, **Tejas Shah**, who was recently installed as President of the Indo-American Bar Association!

Additionally, CVLS in-house volunteer **Neeru Kalra** is now IABA's Co-Vice President of Events, and volunteer **Neha Tannan** is now the Co-Vice President of Community Affairs.

Congratulations to all, and thank you to the Indo American Bar Association for your support of CVLS, including co-sponsoring our clinic.



sign a Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity. Therefore, Ever was not the legal father of his child and had no rights.

CVLS Staff Attorney Fellow **Mila Gumin** filed a parentage case for Ever while the baby was in the NICU. Within a relatively short time, he was adjudicated the legal father, got his name on the birth certificate and was allowed to take his baby home.

Upcoming CVLS Events

February 6
New Volunteer Orientation
by CVLS Staff
CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

Why volunteer? By volunteering with us, you'll receive one-on-one support and valuable experience while you reap the rewards of making a positive change in people's lives. Your law license gives you the key to our legal system. Volunteering lets you unlock and open the door for society's most vulnerable people. At CVLS, you use your skills and talents to help low income individuals with legal problems.

February 19
Seminar, "Preparing 2013 Income Taxes"
by Larry Krupp, CPA
CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

Larry Krupp, Tax Director at Kessler Orlean Silver, 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

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