The 1960s were a time of political and social unrest, when people who had been marginalized and discriminated against demanded recognition and equality. So what better decade could there be for the birth of an organization dedicated to ensuring equal access to justice regardless of income? Chicago Volunteer Legal Services has worked toward this goal since 1964 and will continue to do so for decades more. Of course, any organization with such an ambitious mission needs strong support from its community. Since its inception, CVLS has been blessed to have support from many sources. One, in particular, has been integral to CVLS’s efforts: Schiff Hardin, LLP.

The Chicago law firm, Schiff Hardin, LLP, which began in 1864 as Hitchcock & Dupee, played a crucial role in Chicago’s early development. It helped to establish the Chicago Transit Authority and organized and advanced influential Chicago companies such as Amsted Industries and The Northern Trust Company. Both remain Schiff Hardin clients to this day. In addition to its gold-standard work for Chicago businesses, Schiff Hardin has provided and supported premium quality pro bono legal services to the underprivileged and unrepresented. From political asylum cases to fighting for debtors’ rights to advocating for the homeless, the firm has always been there to help people in need.

Schiff Hardin’s consistent willingness to help has been its greatest asset to CVLS. In 1979, Schiff Hardin set another gold standard, this time for pro bono when it became the first organization to adopt a CVLS neighborhood clinic. Since then, the Schiff clinic, located in East Rogers Park, has been run and fully staffed by firm attorneys and paralegals. Twenty-five years later, CVLS honored Schiff Hardin with its Atticus Finch in recognition of the firm’s support for CVLS and pro bono legal services. The award, which has only been given six times in CVLS’s 50 years, honors entities and persons who exemplify the legal profession’s highest ideals. Schiff Hardin is the only law firm to ever receive it. That the award was well deserved is beyond question. This year alone ten partners and 30 associates from Schiff Hardin have volunteered their time to help CVLS.
CVLS Made the Front Page of the Law Bulletin!

CVLS made the front page of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin this month! To celebrate our 50th anniversary, the Law Bulletin profiled CVLS and our continued fight for equal access to justice.

Reporter Jamie Loo talked with CVLS Executive Director Margaret C. Benson, founder John M. Ferren, founding volunteer John H. Morrison, former CVLS Executive Director Ruth Ann Schmitt, Clinic Chair Sarah L. Flosi and one of her clients and volunteer translators, Claudia Granados. She noted CVLS’ evolution from a group of 15 volunteers meeting in church basements and community centers to a well-established and sustained provider of pro bono civil legal services.


Schiff Hardin: A CVLS Partner Since 1979

As a recent example of Schiff’s excellent efforts, associates Huda Krad Baylin and Emily Gesmundo recently completed a complicated divorce for a client they met at the clinic. Together, Huda and Emily represented Charlotte, a woman who had been seeking a divorce from her husband for nearly a decade. The difficulty was that Charlotte lived in Chicago, while her husband lived in Belize. Despite this grand divide, after putting in 26 hours of work, Huda and Emily were successful in getting Charlotte a divorce. While their dedication and determination is amazing in itself, what’s even more compelling is the special relationship that Huda says she and Emily were able to forge with their client. Emily agreed, saying that working through Schiff’s clinic really gives her the feeling that she makes a difference in people’s lives.

This devotion from Schiff Hardin and its attorneys is the driving force behind the firm’s partnership with CVLS. CVLS is deeply grateful to Schiff Hardin for its immense support. No matter what comes, with CVLS and Schiff Hardin side by side, the future is bright!

Congratulations Laverne!

Please join us in congratulating CVLS Board of Directors member Laverne Horton and her husband, Tory, on the newest addition to their family, Joshua Augustyne Horton!

Joshua was born on June 18, joining older brother Jason. Both he and his happy mom are doing well.

Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Filing Fee Increase

Please be advised, the Chapter 7 Bankruptcy filing fee is now $335.00.

For information on waiving the filing fee, visit http://www.uscourts.gov.
Embrace your inner James Bond or Holly Golightly for a night of 1960s-themed food, entertainment and celebration of CVLS’ 50th anniversary!

Sip an Old Fashioned while you peruse displays of local artwork and silent auction items!

Eat like Julia Child while comedian Pat McGann and an ensemble from the Second City make you laugh like Ed Sullivan and George Carlin!

Make a difference like Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Height and Whitney M. Young as we commemorate CVLS’ 50 year history of fighting for equal access to justice.

Join us at the Chicago Cultural Center on Thursday, October 30 for an unforgettable soiree! Tickets are $190, with a discount available for academic, legal service and government employees. http://cvls.org/50years/registration

For more information on CVLS’ 50th anniversary, visit: cvls.org/50years

Thank You and Farewell, Noah Lauricella!

Please join us in bidding a fond farewell to Clinic Chair and CVLS Board member Noah Lauricella of Drinker Biddle & Reath. We thank him for the tremendous work he gave CVLS through his board work and to the clients he helped through the DBR Legal Clinic. Noah and his wife Amy are moving to Minneapolis in order to be closer to family as they await the birth of twins.

Noah had these kind words to say about his time at CVLS:

“I am decidedly sad to leave DBR and the Board. You are an amazing group of people filled with passion and commitment, and I have been bettered through my experiences with this organization. I sincerely hope I have been a benefit to the organization, and I will continue to support from afar in whatever way I can.”

Noah, we are grateful to have worked so closely with you, and we wish you and Amy all the best!

Get Involved with our Anniversary Gala!

Help your organization send the message that it is aligned with our industry’s mission of providing justice for low-income Chicagoans!

As a sponsor of our 50th Anniversary Gala, you’ll receive benefits including guest tickets and preferred tables, your company logo on communication materials, inclusion in our Law Bulletin marketing campaign, ad space in our Tribute Book and website listings.

Contact Phil Mohr at philmohr@cvls.org for more on how to participate in the celebration!
Moving On Up!

Helping people keep their homes is a never-ending struggle. As a CVLS staff attorney, Eric Sutton fought that battle. Now, after recently striking out on his own, he provides the same caliber of legal assistance to his clients, from a different place.

While Eric found it incredibly rewarding when he was defending the little guy at CVLS, he was frustrated that he couldn’t help people whose income was too high to be eligible for CVLS’ help, yet too low to afford most attorneys. Eric wanted to find a way to help these people. He found it by starting his own firm — Sutton Legal Services, LLC.

Eric’s knowledge of mergers and acquisitions, transactional law and infrastructure financing equipped him with valuable insight into the common issues he handles in his typical caseload, including condominium association board matters and mortgage foreclosures.

The Chicago Bar Foundation’s Justice Entrepreneurs Project (JEP) provided Eric with the resources and business management guidance he needed to launch Sutton Legal Services. Now that the firm is up and running, he also relies on the legal expertise and development strategy he learned at CVLS to manage an effective practice. In fact, just a few weeks after leaving his position at CVLS, Eric had his practice incorporated, and he had even taken on his first client.

Although he is no longer a staff attorney with CVLS, Eric continues fighting for justice, now doing so through his very own practice! Still thankful for all that he learned and experienced in his time with CVLS, Eric continues to help with cases, and volunteers at the monthly CVLS Chinatown Clinic despite the pressures and work demands that come from running his own practice. Now, even more clients have called on Sutton Legal Services for help, and Eric plans to continue answering for a long time to come.

CVLS & LAF Collaboration Leads to a Win

Kudos to CVLS Staff Attorney Matt Hulstein for his ongoing work with LAF Chicago on Chicago Housing Authority voucher termination cases!

Matt and other legal aid housing attorneys face common issues with CHA cases. Recently, at a monthly group meeting to discuss some of these problems, Matt heard LAF attorneys discussing a case that they’d won at the Chancery Court level. Once the CHA’s termination of the client’s housing voucher is reversed, the CHA does not pay the landlord retroactively to cover the period between the termination and reinstatement of the voucher. That leaves the client short and subject to eviction for non-payment of rent.

When Matt heard about this case, he shared with them the brief he’d already written for a case that settled. It was a winner… teamwork pays off. Great work, Matt and LAF!

Why Volunteer?

Why do you take pro bono cases? To help those in need? To stay active in the legal community? To keep the ideas of the Civil Rights Movement alive? Here’s why volunteering is important to us:

• Your legal representation makes a measurable difference in the lives of low-income Chicagoans. In housing cases, a randomized control trial found that 51% of tenants in eviction proceedings without lawyers lost their homes, while only 21% of tenants with lawyers lost possession. Represented tenants also received almost five times the financial benefit.

• Did you know that 41% (or 1.2 million) of Illinois children and a staggering 87% (or 348k) of students enrolled in Chicago Public Schools are from low-income families? As a Minor GAL, your skills make it possible to advocate for our society’s most vulnerable citizens.
This is a terrific way to enjoy the race and support Race Judicata® 2014. All volunteers receive a volunteer t-shirt and goody bag. There are 4 starting times (4:00, 5:15, 5:45 and 6:30 pm)---although we cannot guarantee specific assignments, we will do our best to accommodate your preference. You will be notified of your assignment when you check in on race day.

**REGISTRATION/PACKET PICKUP**
15 Volunteers Needed
Sign people up for the race, take in money, hand out race numbers, t-shirts & goody bags or distribute electronic timing chips.

**Start:** 4:00 pm  
**End:** 6:45 pm

**GEAR CHECK**
30 Volunteers Needed
The first shift checks-in jackets, bags, laptops, etc and the second shift returns checked items.

**Start:** 4:00/6:30 pm  
**End:** 6:30/8:00 pm

**COURSE MARSHALS**

pm
25 Volunteers Needed
Monitor the course to ensure that people don’t run or walk the wrong way (yes, it happens!).

**Start:** 5:15  
**End:** 7:30 pm

**WATER**
40 Volunteers Needed
Hand out water on the course or at the finish line.

**Start:** 5:45 pm  
**End:** 7:30 pm

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**YES! I want to volunteer at Race Judicata® 2014!**

Name: ___________________________  
Address: ___________________________

Daytime Phone: ____________________  
E-mail: ____________________________

Preferred Time (Circle one): 4:00  
5:15  5:45  6:30

Return to CVLS by:

Mail: 33 N. Dearborn, Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60602
Fax: 312.332.1460
Email: kharrison@cvls.org

T-shirt Size (Circle one): SM MED LRG X-LRG

Questions? Please call Kristen Harrison at 312-332-6436 or kharrison@cvls.org
Reserve a team tent today
for your company or running team and you’ll have the perfect
place to meet, hang out, eat, and socialize while enjoying all
the race festivities.

Bypass the packet pick-up
upon arrival at the race site on Thursday, September 4th, your
tent will be set-up and stocked with all your race necessities-
including goody bags, t-shirts and race numbers.

Space is limited. All tent rentals are on a first-come-first-served basis.
Tent rental deadline is **August 29**.

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You may fax your form with a credit card number to 312.332.1460. Please make checks payable to **CVLS** and mail to: Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS), 33 North Dearborn St., Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60602

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**PRICING:**

**Without Sponsorship**

- Large 20 x 10     $899
- Small 10 x 10     $799

**With Sponsorship**

- Large 20 x 10     $649
- Small 10 x 10     $549

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In order to better serve you please let us know how many tables and chairs you will need.
(Small tent limit: 2 tables and 8 chairs; Large tent limit: 3 tables 12 chairs)

**Tables** __________  **Chairs** __________

In addition to tables and chairs, please contact me about the following special requests:

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**Team Name**

**Contact Person**

**Phone Number**

**E-mail Address**

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**Team Tents**

Race Judicata® 2014

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**SIGNATURE**  **DATE**
ANNIVERSARY
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5K RUN/WALK
WITH AFTERPARTY!
benefiting
CHICAGO VOLUNTEER
LEGAL SERVICES

ARVEY FIELD in GRANT PARK
LIVE MUSIC, FREE FOOD
& DRINKS*

$34 early registration
$39 after Aug 22
*Valid photo ID required for wristband

www.CVLS.org/JUDICATA

CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES IS A 501(C)(3) CHARITY
Upcoming CVLS Events

Have you heard about our Foreclosure Seminar Series?

Foreclosure defense has changed tremendously over the last couple of years, in part due to ever evolving responses to the crisis by the federal government and lenders. In order to keep you up to date, CVLS is offering a series of summertime lunchtime seminars.

Following our General Foreclosure Defense Overview and Loss Mitigation Concepts, upcoming topics include “Hot” Foreclosure Defense Topics and Helping Family Members Save Homes. In July, CVLS Access to Justice Program Director Patty Nelson will cover Enforcing TPP’s; Rule 114 Affidavits; Vacating Foreclosure Sales for Loss Mitigation Violations. In August, she will discuss how families of deceased borrowers can save homes in foreclosure.

These seminars take place at our offices, and afterwards are available for online viewing and CLE credit. To attend or view a seminar, visit: http://www.cvls.org/cle

Thursday, July 10 & Thursday, August 7
Training: New Volunteer Orientation
CVLS Offices, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Do you know anyone who would be interested in using their legal skills to help low-income Chicagoans? Spread the word about our upcoming volunteer orientations!

Thursday, July 24
Foreclosure Seminar: Top 3 “Hot” Foreclosure Defense Topics
Enforcing TPP’s; Rule 114 Affidavits; Vacating Foreclosure Sales for Loss Mitigation Violations
by Matthew Hulstein, CVLS Staff Attorney
CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

“Loss mitigation” is a foreclosure defense attorney’s latest and greatest weapon. Access to Justice Staff Attorney Matt Hulstein will explain how to translate a HAMP violation into a defense or counterclaim. He will also present on the new Supreme Court Rule 114 and vacating a foreclosure sale for violating loss mitigation requirements.

Please visit www.cvls.org/seminars to register