



# Our Annual Report is Here!

**Sui Generis: *adjective***

**In a class or group of its own;  
not like anything else.**

CVLS is sui generis. CVLS is the oldest and largest pro bono legal aid program in Illinois. We began as a pro bono program and we remain a pro bono program.

Unlike traditional legal aid programs, our volunteers are supported by a small staff with specialized knowledge, skill, and experience.

Our unparalleled staff ensures that clients receive high-quality legal services and volunteers receive an equally high quality pro bono experience.

Our volunteers, donors and supporters make it possible for CVLS to do pro bono our way, making CVLS a class in and of itself.

▪ **5 COURT APPOINTMENT PROGRAMS:**

We are the only program that accepts appointments from the Circuit Court of Cook County.

▪ **23 NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL CLINICS:**

CVLS' expansive delivery system gives attorneys the opportunity to give back their way.

▪ **1,000 CASES REFERRED BY JUDGES:**

Our volunteers handle more litigation than any other Illinois legal services program.

▪ **2,195 CVLS VOLUNTEERS:**

A staff with specialized knowledge and experience ensures volunteers receive quality support.

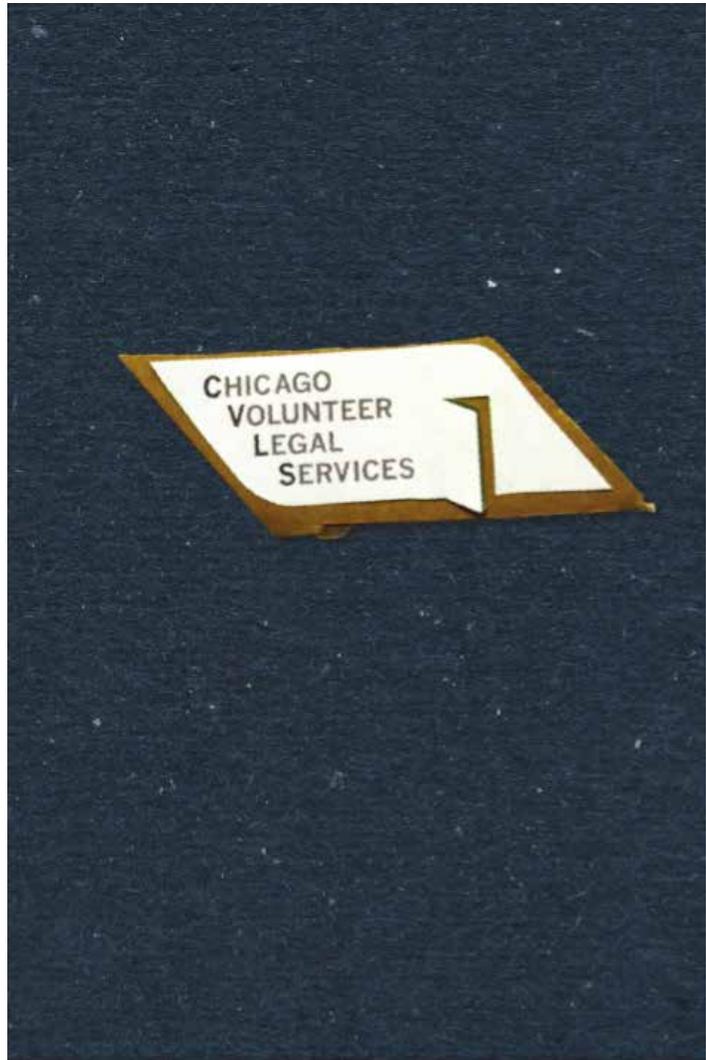
▪ **3,095 CASES COMPLETED:**

3,095 clients given legal assistance they could not otherwise afford. 3,095 lives changed.

▪ **5,500 RACE JUDICATA® PARTICIPANTS:**

Where Chicago's legal community gathers to run, walk and party for equal access to justice.

**Because of you, CVLS is sui generis.**



**Equal access to justice is everyone's fight. CVLS fights every day to provide legal aid for those who cannot otherwise afford it, but we can't do it without you.**

**Please help us continue our work by making a contribution today.**

**[CVLS.org/donate](http://CVLS.org/donate)**

**View and download CVLS' 2015 Annual Report!  
[CVLS.org/annual-reports](http://CVLS.org/annual-reports)**

# Happy 25th Anniversary, Amicus Poloniae!

One of the first volunteers at CVLS' Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic, attorney Jane Kaminski, said the inspiration for starting the clinic with the Polish National Alliance back in 1990 was ensuring people in the Polish American community had help in court or with the paperwork that can get complicated even for a native born American citizen.

Twenty five years later, the Amicus Poloniae clinic's mission remains the same.

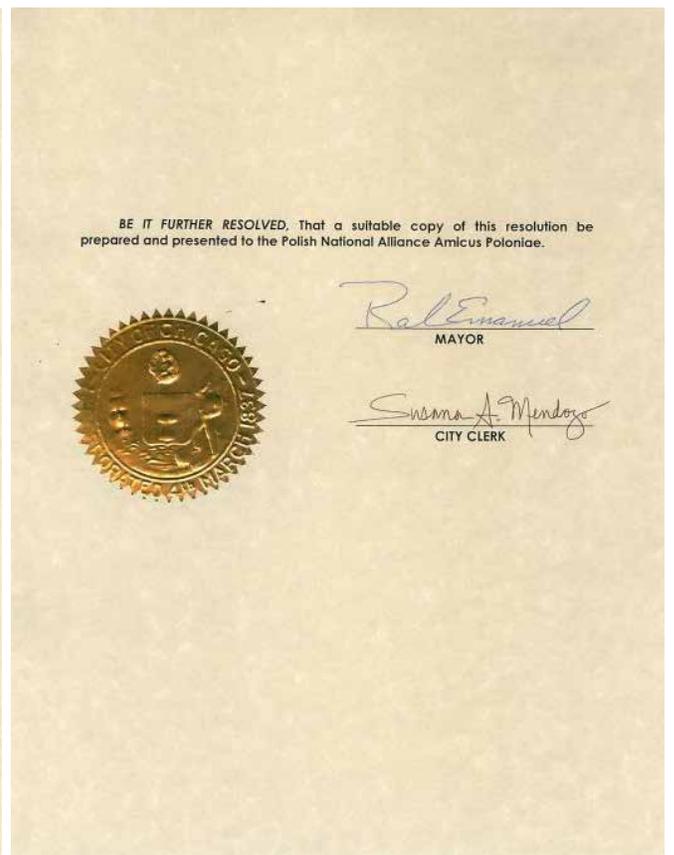
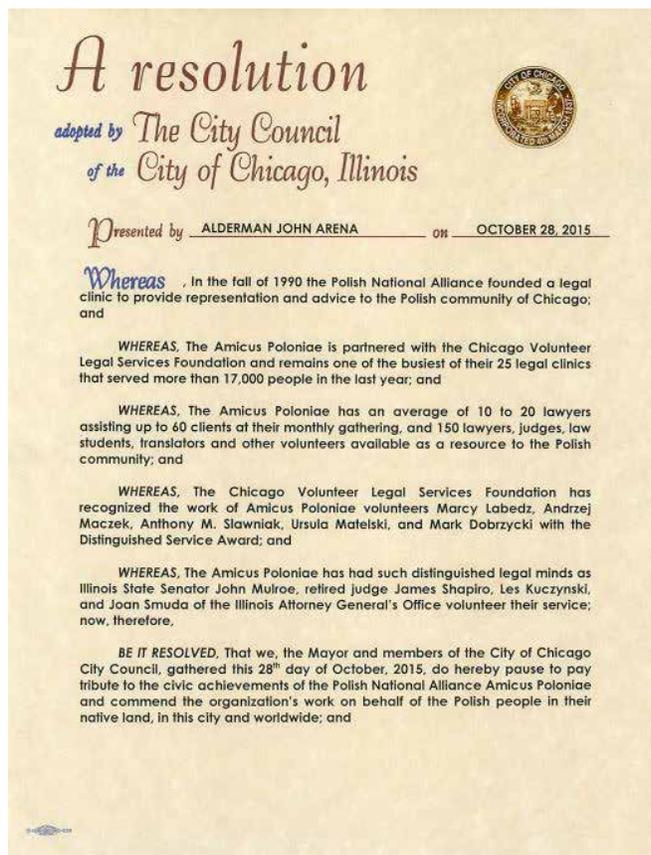
Since its beginnings, the clinic has been held in Jefferson Park, a neighborhood with a significant Polish population. Clinic chairs Robert Groszek and Alexander Fiedotjew, along with administrator Mark Dobrzycki, gather a group of 10-20 volunteers on the third Saturday of the month to serve up to 60 clients.

The clinic's volunteers handle a huge variety of cases, as the clinic isn't focused on one particular issue but on helping a cross-section of Chicago's population with any legal issue that may arise.

# CVLS Volunteers Among CBA 50-Year Membership Honorees



The Chicago Bar Association recently held a luncheon to honor its 50-year members, including longtime CVLS volunteers **Bernard Hammer, Robert Arthur Romanoff** and **H. Reed Harris!** CBA President Patricia Holmes presided over the luncheon, celebrating this group's dedication. Congratulations to these truly outstanding friends of CVLS. What an amazing accomplishment!



## Just in Time for ARDC Registration Season ...

ARDC registration forms arrive in a few weeks! We have a few suggestions on how to strengthen your section on pro bono and support for legal aid ...

### **VOLUNTEER!**

Whether you're an attorney or a law student, you have the legal knowledge and skills to make a difference in someone's life.

Visit  
**CVLS.ORG/VOLUNTEER**  
to get involved!

### **DONATE!**

Our volunteers do amazing work every day, but they can't do it without you. Your donations pay for CVLS' highly qualified staff, who offer essential training and hands-on support, and for comprehensive facilities the volunteers need.

Visit  
**CVLS.ORG/DONATE**  
to help us fight for equal access to justice!

### **LEARN!**

CVLS is pleased to offer monthly CLE seminars entirely free of charge. Attend in person or online to expand your legal knowledge and earn MCLE credit!

Visit  
**CVLS.ORG/CLE**  
to take advantage!

**... Stay Current with Pro Bono Activity, Stay Involved with CVLS!**

## Unidentified Funds in IOLTA Accounts: Help Us Help LTF Help Us

If there are unidentified funds in your IOLTA account, there is a new, simple, and convenient way both to clean up your books and support legal aid.

Effective July 1, 2015, amended Rule 1.15(i) of the Rules of Professional Conduct requires that lawyer with unidentified funds in their IOLTA accounts make periodic efforts over a 12-month period to identify and return the funds. If after 12 months the lawyer determines that further efforts are not likely to succeed, the funds must be remitted to the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois.

LTF will use the funds to make grants to civil legal aid programs like CVLS.

The remittance process is very simple. Instructions, the required remittance form, and more information are available at:

<http://ltf.org/lawyers/unidentified-funds/>

If you have questions, feel free to contact LTF associate director & general counsel David Holtermann (312.938.3076 or david@ltf.org).

## Shop at AmazonSmile to Support CVLS!



Support CVLS while shopping for the holidays! CVLS is now using AmazonSmile, which means Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to CVLS.

Just log into smile.amazon.com and select CVLS as your preferred organization!

# Upcoming CVLS Events

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## NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:

### **GAL for Minors | GALs and School-Related Issues**

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- Presented by Brianne Dotts,  
Legal Council for Health Justice

View this seminar online at:  
[CVLS.ORG/ONLINECLE](http://CVLS.ORG/ONLINECLE)

Most GALs for Minors are not experts in education or school law, but virtually all GALs work with children who are in school (or may be entitled to school services or early intervention). Therefore, it is critical to know the basics of education law, how it can impact your representation as a GAL, and how to advocate for your child in common school-related issues.

This session will provide an overview of the basics of education law, including:

- What to do if the minor is facing suspension or expulsion
- How to advocate for minors with special education needs, including signs that a child may have unidentified special education needs
- Rights of minors with limited English proficiency
- Early intervention for children ages birth to 3 years old
- Student confidentiality and records access issues

### **GAL for Minors | Trauma Informed & Motivational Interviewing**

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- Presented by Lisa Parsons,  
Legal Council for Health Justice

View this seminar online at  
[CVLS.ORG/ONLINECLE](http://CVLS.ORG/ONLINECLE)

Lisa Parsons, Supervising Attorney at The Legal Council of Chicago, will provide an overview of trauma informed and motivational interviewing for attorneys, how to employ these techniques and how the approach might benefit pro bono clients and cases.

## TRAININGS

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### **New Volunteer Orientations**

*CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM*

- Thursday, December 10
- Thursday, January 14

We'll cover the skills required to be a successful volunteer attorney, as well as the issues that may come up during cases. Training is for new volunteers working with CVLS.

### **GAL for Minors Orientations**

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*CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM*

- Thursday, January 21

We'll cover the skills required to be a successful GAL for a minor as well as the issues that may come up during the case.

Please visit [www.cvls.org/cle](http://www.cvls.org/cle) to register for a seminar!

**CHICAGO  
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LEGAL  
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