

## Mark Your Calendars Now!



**7/22**  
GAL for Minors  
Seminar: Effective  
Transition Planning  
for Children in High-  
Conflict Families  
12:15 PM

**7/23**  
Orientation:  
GAL for Minors  
Training  
12:00 PM

**8/13**  
Orientation:  
New Volunteers  
12:15 PM

**9/10**  
RACE JUDICATA  
Arvey Field  
6:30 PM



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

## Phil Wins Chicago Bar Foundation's Thomas H. Morsch Public Service Award!

The Chicago Bar Foundation recently announced the 2015 winner of its prestigious Thomas H. Morsch Public Service Award ...

CVLS Deputy Director **Phil Mohr!** We couldn't be prouder of Phil for this outstanding, not to mention well-deserved, accomplishment.

Each year, the CBF awards the Thomas H. Morsch Award, the "premier public recognition for long-time legal aid and public interest law attorneys in our community," to an exemplary lawyer who chooses public service work as a career.



*Thomas H. Morsch Award Winner  
Phillip J. Mohr*

The award will be presented at the CBF's Pro Bono & Public Service Awards Luncheon on July 14th - please join us and celebrate Phil's invaluable contribution to the legal community!

Phil joined CVLS in 1991 as a Staff Attorney, quickly rising to Director of the Family Law program in 1996. Our Deputy Director since 2006, Phil continues to direct the Family Law program, manage a large caseload and work tirelessly on behalf of his clients to meet CVLS' greatest need: representation in contested family law matters.

He consistently provides advice and support to volunteers, law students, interns and staff; his talent with training and mentorship makes him the ideal person to oversee our summer student program. A regular speaker on family law and pro bono issues, his engagement with the legal community also extends to several years chairing the Chicago Bar Association's Legal Aid Committee, assistance in creating the Domestic Relations Division's Self-Help Center, sitting on various advisory committees and editing legal content for the Illinois Technology Center.

Showing incredible commitment and longevity in his career, Phil was recognized in the Chicago Lawyer's "40 Attorneys Under 40 to Watch" in 2004.

Congratulations, Phil!

## CLINIC SPOTLIGHT: Visitation Legal Clinic

While chairing a legal clinic in the Loop, **Mary Anne Smith** encountered a church sharing program wherein more affluent parishes helped out poorer parishes. Part of this program involved a medical clinic for low-income members of the community; seeing this clinic in action, Mary Anne envisioned a similar program providing legal help. So she started CVLS' Visitation Legal Clinic.

Since the clinic's beginnings in 1988, Mary Anne has gathered friends and colleagues from an amazing variety of backgrounds. "I get lawyers wherever I can," she says. The strategy has paid off tremendously, as the Visitation Clinic can handle cases as varied as its two dozen or so volunteers. "We try to cover the waterfront on whatever case types come in," Mary Anne explains.

Held at the Visitation Church in Englewood, the clinic's volunteers tend to be more seasoned lawyers, staying with the clinic long-term. Often they go on to bigger pursuits and come back, or find the clinic as a "second career." Mary Anne helped one former intake worker get into law school, and now he volunteers as a lawyer. In one case, a client in an adult guardianship case was so grateful for her experience with the clinic, she now volunteers as an intake worker.

Interacting with the clients is a favorite aspect of running the Visitation Clinic for Mary Anne. Particularly working in a lower-income area, she says, gives her a respect for her clients' generosity. "People come in and are willing to be guardians or adopt," she says. "They're really good people willing to help when they don't have much themselves."

For this reason, Mary Anne believes all lawyers, especially young attorneys, should volunteer. Not only does it keep lawyers grounded, she says, but pro bono provides good experience and client interaction in a direct, hands-on way not often seen in firms. "Clients are so happy and appreciative, something lawyers don't often get on other clients," she says.

## 1 case, 2 nations, 3 children ... 187 hours

Colleen visited the **HOW, Inc. / Schiff Hardin Legal Clinic** with a highly complicated custody issue. A single mother of three, raised in Ireland but living with very little support in Chicago, Colleen wanted to move her children back to Ireland to reunite her two youngest with their father and care for her ailing parents.

However, her ex-husband and oldest child's father had visitation rights in place, and contested Colleen's petition to remove her daughter to Ireland.

Torn between remaining in the US with all of her children but away from her home, fiancé and family, or moving to Ireland without her oldest daughter, Colleen was relieved when Schiff Hardin Associate **Shawna Boothe** agreed to represent her.

Not only did Shawna adjust to a long-distance attorney client relationship, she also extensively researched Ireland to argue that Ireland is an equal place to raise a child.

After spending a staggering 187 hours over a year-long period, all the while supporting her client through an intense emotional struggle, Shawna won the case with a settlement of both Colleen's removal petition and her ex-husband's petition for child support payment.

Shawna calls volunteering at the clinic more than a professional obligation. "I believe my CVLS volunteer work did not end with helping a single mother and her family; it had an impact on the community in which this family lives in and in which I practice law."

"It's a good thing to go into a poor neighborhood once a month and see how people live. Our clients have direct needs, and you have direct involvement in helping them meet those needs."

- **Mary Anne Smith, Visitation Legal Clinic**

## VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL

### **Ashaki Sailor** ***Foreclosure Mediation***



**Ashaki Sailor** has put her legal talents to work at CVLS for over two years now, as a volunteer representing homeowners in the Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program.

Her thoughtful and empathetic approach to each client, as well as her detailed and thorough case preparation, guarantee that her lucky clients get the best possible representation.

Regardless of the client's ability to ultimately obtain a modification of their mortgage, Ashaki continually asks the right questions and figures out the best possible solution available to each homeowner.

### **Volunteer Shauna Wins CBF's Weigle Award!**

The Chicago Bar Foundation presents its Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award to a lawyer under 36 based on furthering the ideals of the legal profession.

We can't think of anyone more deserving than CVLS volunteer **Shauna Prewitt**, who has advocated tirelessly for the legal rights and protections for mothers of rape-conceived children.

A volunteer in the GAL for Minors program since 2010, and a CVLS Volunteer Recognition Award winner, Shauna truly is exceptional.

Congratulations, Shauna! We can't wait to see where the rest of your career takes you.

### **Rawn Reinhard** ***GAL for Minors***



**Rawn Reinhard** is a Partner at Neal Gerber and Eisenberg, where he focuses his practice on securities arbitration and class actions, as well as general commercial and corporate litigation.

Rawn and his colleagues, Aidan Gilbert, and Carol Gilmore, have taken on 21 guardian ad litem for minors cases in the past three years alone. Wow! This is surely a new record.

These lengthy cases involve highly emotional, difficult parties and more than their fair share of drama and headache. It is a time-consuming, thankless job.

Despite that, Rawn and his team enthusiastically take on multiple cases at a time, proclaiming that they are up for anything and love a challenge. They truly go above and beyond the call of duty by traveling to see minors in other cities, learning every detail of each family's history, and handling issues that arise long after cases have been taken off the court's call.

CVLS also thanks Rawn for his service as a new member of our Board of Directors.

We can't thank Rawn, Aidan, and Carol enough for their pro bono service and dedication to the GAL program.

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Shunte Goss, JEP



"It goes back to me wanting to help people," new Justice Entrepreneurs Project participant **Shunte Goss** says of the career as a lawyer she's wanted since she was six years old.

Now, after attending Illinois State University and Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Shunte is a member of the newest JEP class. She loves getting to know the other JEP participants, knowing they're all going through the same process.

The JEP helps with one aspect of starting her own socially-conscious firm that Shunte didn't anticipate: the business angle. "I didn't realize how much you need to put into it," she says of the ins and outs of starting a company.

Armed with support from the JEP's law firm incubator services and the benefits of hands-on involvement with CVLS, Shunte is up for the challenge.

In addition to the CVLS staff attorneys on hand to answer legal questions, Shunte and the other JEP-ers in our office provide invaluable support on the pro bono cases we handle, gaining real-world experience in the process. "I'm always open to new avenues," she says, showing she's just the kind of young attorney that finds success with the JEP.

In her practice, which focuses on Estate Planning and Family Law, Shunte says she wants to give her clients highly personalized attention because she knows every family's situation is unique.

Visit her website (<http://www.shuntegossesq.com/>) to read more about her approach to increasing access to family legal services, tying estate and trust issues into helping clients with long-term family planning.

As a legal aid attorney, Shunte points out, "the people you'll encounter the most need the most help." This idea is fundamental to her views on pro bono and volunteering. "It's a form of giving back, but we don't think about what we get in return," she says. "I'm really in this to help."

## Volunteer saves voucher and improves CHA's system

Joyce is a single mother of three sons, working multiple jobs to make ends meet. In addition to occasional unemployment, Joyce also received a housing voucher from the Housing Authority of Cook County. With her income and employment in constant flux, Joyce often reported her changes in income to her housing case worker over the phone.

However, the housing authority technically requires written notice of unemployment. When Joyce failed to report, in writing, a couple of months of unemployment, the housing authority terminated her housing voucher, leaving her and her three sons homeless.

Luckily, Judge Mary Mikva appointed

CVLS under the Access to Justice Program, and **Kali Plomin** of O'Rourke, Hogan, Fowler and Dwyer LLC volunteered to represent Joyce.

Kali successfully pointed out the flaws in the current system, and the case was remanded to the housing authority for another hearing.

But Kali didn't stop there. She volunteered to represent Joyce at the hearing, and was able to broker a settlement that allowed Joyce to pay back the small overpayment to the housing authority at a reasonable rate.

But more importantly, because of Kali's determination and perseverance, Joyce's family gets to keep their housing voucher - and stay in their home.

## Registration for Race Judicata® 2015 is OPEN!



Registration for **Race Judicata® 2015** is now open! Join more than 5,000 runners and the rest of Chicago's legal community for free food, drinks and live music!

In the process, you'll be supporting CVLS' mission to ensure that the law works for everyone, not just those who can afford it!

Join us in Grant Park on September 10 to make this year's race the biggest and best yet.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- August 21: Last day of early bird registration
- August 28: Online Registration Closed
- August 29-30: Individual Packet Pickup
- September 9: Individual & Team Packet Pickup
- September 10: Race Day!!!

Take advantage of early registration!

Early Bird: \$34 until 8/21

Regular: \$39 from 8/22-9/4

**Register online at [cvls.org/judicata](http://cvls.org/judicata)!**

## Purchase Your Tickets for Vino & Van Gogh!



Join the Junior Board of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services as they host the 6th Annual Vino & Van Gogh!

Vino & Van Gogh is a wonderful opportunity for all professionals to enjoy art, food, music and drinks while mingling with old friends and making new connections.

Every year local Chicago artists and students display their artwork for guests to enjoy and add to the alluring atmosphere customary for this event. A variety of media will be represented, including print art, paintings and sculpture.

Art will be available to purchase through the artists at reasonable prices with a percentage donated to CVLS, and all proceeds of Vino & Van Gogh go toward CVLS.

### INTERESTED IN SPONSORING VINO & VAN GOGH?

This event is a great opportunity to gain exposure among key audiences in Chicago's legal community, while supporting a worthy cause. For sponsorship information, visit [cvls.org/vinovangogh](http://cvls.org/vinovangogh) and download the sponsorship form.

Friday, October 16, 6-10PM

National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halsted

Tickets \$60 in advance, \$75 at the door

**Purchase tickets online at [cvls.org/vinovangogh](http://cvls.org/vinovangogh)!**



# Upcoming CVLS Events

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## NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:

### Administration of Small, Uncontested, Decedent Estates In Cook County

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CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

**Wednesday, July 22**

- Presented by Steve Raminiak

CVLS volunteer and Board of Directors member Steve Raminiak, Esq. presents an introduction to decedents' estate administration in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

This seminar is meant to provide a solid foundation in the administration of small, uncontested, decedent estates. Steve will cover:

- Introduction and preliminary considerations
- Filing a will and opening a probate estate
- Designation of a personal fiduciary and the affidavit of heirship

*CVLS is proud to present a **GAL for Minors seminar series** in conjunction with the **Chicago School of Professional Psychology!** Masters and doctoral students from the Chicago School will present on a variety of mental health topics as they relate to Guardian ad Litem cases.*

### GAL for Minors | Effective Transition Planning

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CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

**Wednesday, July 22**

- Presented by Whitney Zweifel,  
The Chicago School

Effective Transition Planning for Children in High Conflict Families: Visitation Schedules and More

## TRAININGS

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### New Volunteer Orientations

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CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

- Thursday, July 23

- Thursday, August 13

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.

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

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