

RACE JUDICATA® 2015 PHOTOS





THE WINNERS!

ABOVE: The Berger Schatz team displays its 1st Place T-Shirt

LEFT: Fastest Female Lawyer Ursula Taylor

RIGHT: Fastest Male Lawyer Ian Wolfe



VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL

Sara J. Gurvitz
The Ark Legal Clinic

In her work with CVLS' Ark Legal Clinic, **Sara Gurvitz** has committed over 100 hours of volunteer work in this past year alone. Drawing on her background in child custody and divorce, Sara handles chiefly family law cases, advocating for clients often for months on end.

The Ark, a nonprofit built on stabilizing its clients' situations and assisting them in achieving self-reliance, offers an array of social services to the disadvantaged Jewish population of Chicago.

Sara's dedication to providing access to legal services the Ark's clients could not otherwise afford embodies the mission of both the Ark and CVLS.

Lam Nguyen Ho
Chinatown Legal Clinic

As the founder and Executive Director of the Community Activism Law Alliance, **Lam Nguyen Ho** is passionate about bringing legal services to Chicago's disadvantaged populations and raising awareness of legal issues facing these communities. His work involves community activism via law clinics, including CVLS' Chinese American Service League Chinatown Legal Clinic.

In addition to volunteering consistently at the CASL clinic on Saturdays, Lam has taken on several panel cases for CVLS. The clinic's chair describes him as "a great attorney," adding that the CASL clinic is lucky to have him advocating on behalf of its clients.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Jennifer Weed

Receiving a Citation to Discover Assets is stressful enough for anyone, let alone a low-income Chicagoan. It's even more stressful if you're Mr. Kumer, a 75-year-old who has had a recent stroke and is living off a pension. Mr. Kumer needed a lawyer to explain - both to himself and to the court - that he was judgment-proof and his pension could not be garnished.

Enter **Jennifer Weed**, a volunteer with our **Jane Addams Legal Clinic**, who stepped into a time-sensitive case, brought herself up to speed in an area of law with which she was unfamiliar, and protected Mr. Kumer's assets!

We asked Jen about her experience:

Had you worked on a matter like this before?

This was my first foray into courtroom 1401! I try to stick to adult guardianships because it's what I know best, and the area I feel most comfortable.

Were there any particular challenges with this case?

A few challenges. The primary challenge was the urgency of the matter - we saw Mr. Kumar on Wednesday, August 19 and he was scheduled to appear in court on Monday, August 24. The other challenge was that I knew nothing about debtor's court, and wasn't entirely sure how we were going to effectively help Mr. Kumar. I only knew that he needed us, and deserved our assistance, so that's what I was going to do.

The case was a quick turnaround and a stressful situation ... How did you go about explaining the situation to Mr. Kumar and the opposing counsel?

Mr. Kumar is the perfect client! He's so calm and patient, and didn't seem frazzled that he had a court appearance in 5 days. I think I was more worried than he was! I promised Mr. Kumar I would come

up to speed as quickly as possible, and contact him with an overview of his appearance in courtroom 1401. And then I spent the night reaching out to my law school network for resources and advice so that I could look somewhat prepared for a court appearance (and keep Mr. Kumar's confidence high!).

Thankfully a classmate works with debtors and spends a lot of time in 1401; she was able to give me a crash course on 1401 best practices; everything from prepping Mr. Kumar to working with the clerk to responding to opposing client. We came in prepared, and Mr. Kumar had everything opposing counsel needed. Phew!

Were you and Mr. Kumar satisfied with the outcome?

We were both very happy! Mr. Kumar is a retired City employee and his only assets are a pension which cannot be garnished. At the start of this process neither one of us knew that, but once I was brought up to speed and knew that he would keep all of his assets, I knew Mr. Kumar was going to be OK.

When we left the Daley Center, Mr. Kumar gave me a hug, and then personally delivered thank you cards to the CVLS staff. The man's sincere gratitude made me feel so good about the work that the clinics do.

Why do you think pro bono is important for lawyers and the legal profession?

Every day I come off the el and see a sign that reads, "Go Do Good." It is a reminder that I have a skill set that many do not, and with that the ability (and responsibility) to do good every single day.

There are so many people in the Chicago-land community that need and deserve high quality legal services...lawyers can provide that service, so why shouldn't we? It only takes a few hours to make a lifetime of difference for someone else.

CLIENTS SAY ...

"It really helped that [CVLS] actually expressed her concerns to opposing counsel the way she wanted to, but was not able to."

CLIENTS SAY ...

"In the beginning, I had a hard time understanding a lot of the legal terms, such as what was meant by mediation ... That was before [the volunteer attorney] came onto my case."

Child Support Division Has Moved!

Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy A. Brown announced that her office's Child Support Division will move from its location at 28 N. Clark St. to Lower Level Room 01 at the Daley Center, effective Monday, September 21.

All Child Support Division services will be available to the public in its new location. For Child Support information, customers should call (312) 345-4015.

Staff Picnic!

The CVLS staff enjoyed a picnic outing at LaBagh Woods this month, complete with a potluck-style feast.

Grill Master Phil Mohr used highly sophisticated grilling equipment including a kabob stick and an ice scraper. The rest of the staff tried our gooey, yellow luck in a gooey, yellow Egg Toss, and later washed off with a Corn Hole Tournament in the rain. John and Rob won the tournament, narrowly defeating the defending champions, Peter and Jessica.

Visitation Clinic Party!

Volunteer Kathleen Hayes hosted a group of fifteen or so of the Visitation Church Legal Clinic's volunteers for the clinic's bi-annual gathering. This summer's party consisted of a potluck-style lunch with plenty of dessert!

Vino & Van Gogh 2015

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)**

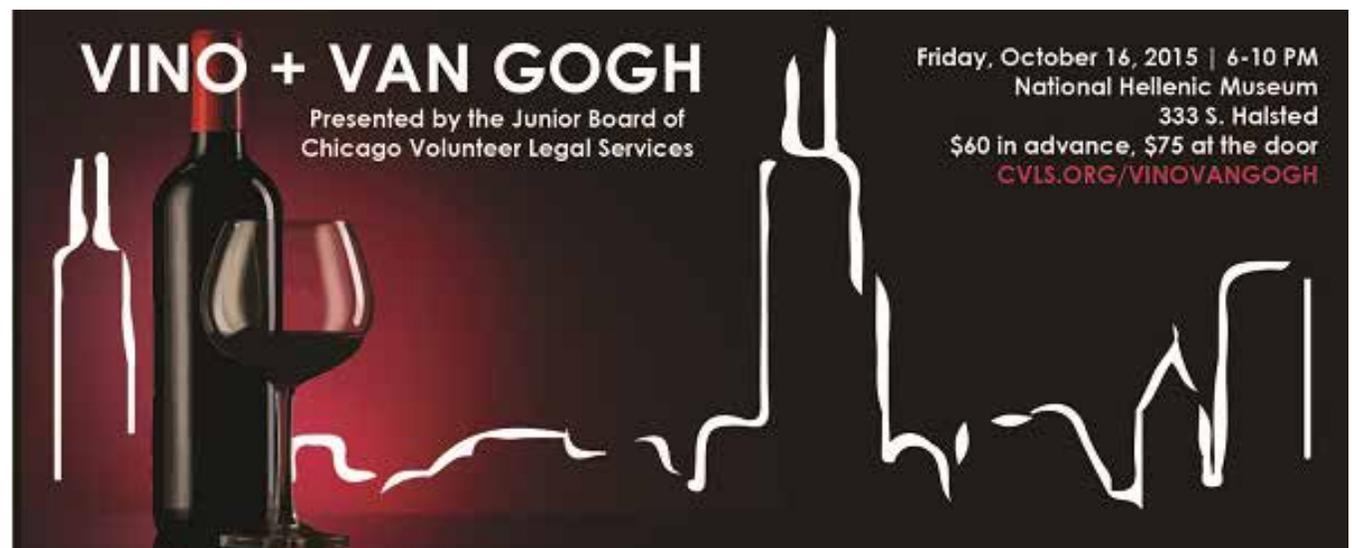
We'll have wine! We'll have art! We'll have food from Tamale Spaceship! We'll have raffle prizes! We'll have more than 200 young professionals supporting a great cause!

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.

All proceeds of Vino & Van Gogh go toward CVLS and our mission to provide equal access to justice to those in need. Purchase your tickets at <http://cvls.org/vinovangogh> now!

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 and download the sponsorship form.



VINO + VAN GOGH
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CVLS.ORG/VINOVANGOGH

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Kathy, Clinic Coordinator

Kathy Koester's first interview with CVLS took place on the same day as the 2013 Blackhawks Stanley Cup parade. In the two years since then, Kathy has worked her way through the CVLS ranks.

Still relatively new at her position as Clinic Coordinator, Kathy was most recently the Access to Justice administrative assistant. While it's a big change, Kathy has taken it in stride; she says her previous involvement in our Foreclosure Mediation and Access to Justice programs has worked to her advantage.

Liaising between CVLS and our 22 legal clinics, a typical day for Kathy involves the administration aspect of processing clinic intakes and case closures, but also facilitating clinic support. She makes sure every clinic has what it needs - whether that's pairing a volunteer with questions to a staff attorney with relevant experience, or ensuring a clinic's chair has enough volunteers. "That's what we're here for," she says. "We're a support system."

Similar to how she is learning new skills as the Clinic Coordinator, she hopes to improve volunteers' experiences with CVLS, which involves promoting a main benefit of pro bono - expanding their legal knowledge and abilities. Whether it's through CLE and online resources or staff support, she says, "I want to help them feel more confident in taking cases outside their comfort zone."

So far, Kathy has taken every opportunity to foster relationships, getting to know each clinic and using her experience to help develop and strengthen its presence. That experience has shown her how grateful CVLS clients are for the assistance our volunteers are able to give them, and why it's so important to bring that much-needed assistance to as many people throughout Chicago as possible.

"I feel like I'm really helping," Kathy says of her work with CVLS. She couldn't be more right.

St. Malachy Clinic Needs Volunteers!

The CVLS St. Malachy - Precious Blood Legal Clinic has been serving Hispanic and African American communities since 1994. Its long-time chair, Bruce Zumstein, is retiring in November 2015. Thank you, Bruce, for your support and dedication over the years!

CVLS needs more volunteers to staff the clinic, and a new clinic chair. This would be an excellent opportunity for Spanish speaking attorneys to become involved in one of CVLS' neighborhood clinics. You don't speak Spanish? Fear not, the clinic has an experienced interpreter.

Bruce says a volunteer attorney usually sees about two or three clients per clinic, with slightly more during tax season. Typical cases include landlord/tenant matters, small claims, insurance and foreclosures.

The clinic is located at the St. Malachy + Precious Blood Church on 2248 W. Washington Blvd. The clinic meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. Appointments are scheduled through Juanita Avila at 312-733-1068 ext. 13.

Please contact Kathy Koester at 312-332-7521 or kkoester@cvls.org for more information.



Upcoming CVLS Events

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:

Administration of Small, Uncontested, Decedent Estates In Cook County

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 | Trauma Informed & Motivational Interviewing

CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

Thursday, November 19

- Presented by Lisa Parsons

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

New Volunteer Orientations

CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

- Thursday, November 12

- Thursday, December 10

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 to register for a seminar!

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