CVLS volunteers are among top 40 under 40

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone’s fight.

Upcoming Events

December 26 - CVLS offices closed for Christmas holiday.

January 2 - CVLS offices closed for New Year’s Day

January 10 - New Volunteer Orientation
12:15 - 1:15 p.m., CVLS Offices

January 11 - GAL For Minors Training
12:00 p.m. - 2 p.m., CVLS offices

January 13 - Seminar: Protecting your Identity: Cybersecurity Basics
12:15 - 1:15 p.m., CVLS offices

February 22 - GAL For Minors Training
12:00 p.m. - 2 p.m., CVLS offices

You’re invited!

Come celebrate the holidays with CVLS at our Holiday Open House.

Enjoy the season with food, drinks, friends and cheer on Wednesday, December 14, from 5 - 7 p.m., in our offices at 33 N. Dearborn St. 4th Floor.

CVLS’ just released 2016 Annual Report—“Building Bridges since 1964”—outlines how CVLS bridges the troubled legal waters our clients face.

Last year 2,095 volunteer attorneys served as bridges over troubled legal waters for 9,995 Chicago area low-income individuals and families. For free.

They counseled, advised and represented people through foreclosures, evictions, bankruptcies, divorces, adoptions, guardianships, immigration cases and dozens of types of legal problems. For free.

With 24 neighborhood legal clinics, five court appointment programs and an extensive panel referral network, our delivery system gives attorneys a variety of ways they can provide legal services directly to low-income Chicagoans.

The annual report will be mailed to supporters in the coming weeks. View it online at cvls.org/annual-reports.
Volunteers named among top 40 under 40

Volunteer Rachel D. Kiley, a partner with Bollinger Connolly Krause LLC, was named among the 40 under 40 by Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and Chicago Lawyer.

Kiley has worked on several high profile cases at Bollinger, including representing Clear Channel through the E2 case, in which 21 people died in a nightclub after security guards used pepper spray to break up a fight in 2003.

Kiley, who is also a member of the Chicago Inn of Court and was coach of the moot court team at Loyola University, also served as Guardian Ad Litem in a CVLS minor guardianship case.

Her peers have called her “work ethic, integrity in her relationships with opposing lawyers, competence in preparing and presenting complex issues as well as her civility to opposing counsel demonstrates skills at the highest levels.”

CVLS volunteer Shauna Prewitt was named among Crain’s 40 Under 40.

Prewitt, an associate at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, was named to the list for her work spearheading a national lobbying campaign to curtail rapists’ parental rights. Prewitt has personal experience with the issue when, after she was assaulted in college, gave birth to a child and had to battle her attacker in court for custody.

When her campaign started six years ago, only 16 states had laws directly addressing the issue. Today 40 jurisdictions do.

At Skadden, Shauna’s litigation and investigations practice gave her the opportunity to work on the Department of Justice’s $16.65 billion settlement against Bank of America and the special committee for creditors pursuing Tribune Company.

Prewitt regularly handles a steady caseload of pro bono work including serving as a guardian ad litem for children, handling asylum and immigration issues, adoption issues, providing legal counsel to veterans and representing clients through the Public Defender Bar. She actively lobbies in support of legal rights and protections for mothers of children conceived through rape.

Online CLE

How to Represent a Detained Immigration Client in a Bond Hearing -

Attorneys from the Chicago Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers’ Association (AILA) train interested attorneys to represent detained immigrants in bond hearings through a new partnership between CVLS and the Chicago Chapter of AILA. This is a short-term pro bono opportunity, as attorneys commit to a limited scope representation of the client for the purposes of the bond hearing only. All cases are heard in downtown Chicago. All cases are pre-screened and eligible for an immigration bond. Guidance and mentorship are available during the case.

Worth 1 hour MCLE credit

Pro Bono 101: Immigration and Family Law -

Not sure what a visa petition or the visa bulletin is and have no idea where to begin with divorce and custody cases, but want to help out at your neighborhood pro bono legal clinic? “Pro Bono 101: Immigration & Family Law,” a CLE from the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) and CVLS’ Junior Board of Directors, will provide an overview of key immigration law and family law concepts and processes.

Worth 1 hour MCLE credit
http://bit.ly/2g2ja7F
December 2016

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5 - 7 p.m.
33 N. Dearborn St., 4th floor

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January 10 - New Volunteer Orientation
12:15 - 1:15 p.m., CVLS Offices

Come to one of our new volunteer orientations and sit down with a CVLS staff attorney as they take you through the ins and outs of being a Chicago Volunteer Legal Services volunteer. Please note, you must be an attorney to sign up for one of our new volunteer orientations.

January 11 - GAL For Minors Training
12:00 p.m. - 2 p.m., CVLS offices

Rebekah Rashidfarokhi, CVLS staff attorney working in the Minor GAL program, will cover the skills required to be a successful GAL for a minor as well as the issues that may come up during the case. This training is for licensed attorneys interested in working as pro bono Guardians ad Litem for children through CVLS. No prior experience is necessary.

January 13 - Seminar: Protecting your Identity: Cybersecurity Basics
12:15 - 1:15 p.m., CVLS offices

This presentation, hosted by Ian Sharp-