Vino + Van Gogh tickets on sale

Join the Junior Board of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services as they host the 7th Annual Vino + Van Gogh from 6-10 p.m., Friday, October 14, at the National Hellenic Museum, 333 N. Halsted.

V+VG is a wonderful opportunity for professionals to enjoy art, food, music and drinks while mingling with old friends and making new connections.

Every year Chicago artists display their work for guests to enjoy and to add to the event’s alluring atmosphere. A variety of media will be represented, including photography, paintings and sculpture.

You’ll be able to make purchases directly from the artists for reasonable prices, with CVLS receiving a donated portion of the price.

Interested in Sponsoring?

Proceeds from Vino + Van Gogh go to support CVLS’ mission of supporting its 2300 volunteer attorneys, who provide a wide range of totally free civil legal aid to the poor and working poor on an individual basis. Leading the way in litigation, family law and guardianship, CVLS is recognized as the most comprehensive, most efficient and most cost-effective civil legal aid provider in Chicago.

Vino + Van Gogh 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.
Dear Ms. Benson,

My name is Sean I am a client of C.V.L.S. and had the pleasure of being interviewed by Costa Nikolaides. Mr. Nikolaides was extremely helpful and very knowledgeable and considerate. Mr. Nikolaides is a credit to C.V.L.S.

Sean J.

The Young’s case was a great opportunity for this new volunteer because there was nothing to fight over and both parties wanted the divorce. “I just got hired with a firm that practices family law,” Nash said. “It was a learning experience for me, trying to help people that can’t afford $300 an hour for a lawyer ... If I had all the money in the world I would only do pro bono.”

Nash was able to obtain a divorce for Mr. Young in just a few months.

**Spotlight On: Shelly Nash**

Mr. Young sought a divorce from his wife, citing irreconcilable differences. There was no property to split and no children were born during the marriage. CVLS volunteer Shelly Nash, an associate with S. K. Law, P.C., accepted the case. This was her second CVLS divorce. She’d done her first through CVLS’ famed ThurnderDome Divorce Clinic. Now she was ready to go it alone.

**Cultural Competency CLE Seminar**

Dr. Keyuana Muhammad of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology will lead “Cultural Competence for Attorneys: Unique Mental Health Needs in the African American Community.”

This training will help CVLS pro bono attorneys gain a better understanding of the mental health needs, issues, and experiences of some of the families we serve. Topics discussed will include reasons African American clients are often reluctant to engage in treatment, attitudes toward engaging in treatment, prevalence of certain mental health issues, etc. This seminar will also discuss cultural competence, addressing appropriate techniques and ways to practice in a culturally sensitive manner. This seminar is part of our GAL for Minors series but is relevant to attorneys in all areas of law. All are welcome.

July 21, CVLS Offices, 12:15-1:15 p.m.
This seminar is worth 1 hour CLE

**Eviction Seminars Online**

CVLS staff attorney Matt Hulstein hosted the final installment of our three-part eviction series last month.

Matt’s programs will help equip a cadre of volunteer attorneys to handle pro bono eviction and housing cases. The series, which covered “Eviction Basics,” “Eviction Practice,” and “Issues in Subsidized Housing,” are all available on CVLS.org.

CVLS is the only legal aid organization in Chicago that represents both low income landlords and tenants. Meeting our clients’ needs in this area is of crucial importance. In 2015 nearly 30 percent of the cases CVLS handled dealt with housing as a primary concern.

Anyone interested in reviewing the series, each part is worth 1 hour of CLE credit, can find them at cvls.org/onlinecle.
Race Judicata

Registration for the 2016 Race Judicata® 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. CVLS supports over 2,300 volunteer attorneys who provide a wide range of totally free civil legal aid to the poor and working poor on an individual basis. Proceeds from Race Judicata® help ensure that we can continue providing high quality totally free legal representation to low-income Chicagoans.

Join us in Grant Park on September 15 to make this year’s race the biggest and best yet. Register online at cvls.org/judicata.

Important dates:
August 26: Last day for early bird pricing
September 2: Last day for sponsors to supply goody bag items.
September 9: Online Registration Closed
September 10, 11, 14: Individual and Team Packet Pickup dates
September 15: Race Day

Spotlight on: Debi Filipovich, Minor GAL Fellow

Deborah Filipovich first came to CVLS as an intern in 2014, she knew she wanted to explore public interest but hadn’t yet determined in what capacity she wanted to work. She worked with the Minor GAL program and just “fell in love with the area,” she said.

“I was looking into public interest and knew that was where I wanted to go,” Filipovich said. She currently provides invaluable support to CVLS’ pro bono casework by preparing and editing reports, representing CVLS in court hearings, supporting volunteers and maintaining her own caseload. She tries to take on challenging cases where she can go before a judge and state her case, because she said she does her best work at those times.

In one such case a minor whose interest she was representing, was without a guardian. A judge gave Filipovich until the end of the day to find a guardian, rather than send the minor into DCFS custody. She began interviewing grandparents and other family members on the phone, while also running background and DCFS checks to ensure proper custody. Before the end of the day, the minor’s uncle was able to take custody.

Outside of CVLS, Filipovich coaches the Northwestern Mock Trial, which competed at a national competition in South Carolina last April.

GAL for Minors Training

Susan Decostanza, 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.

July 13, 12:00 p.m.
A Brand New Sidley Baby

Congratulations to Kevin and Jodie Fee on the arrival in May of their first girl, Chloe Ellen Fee. Kevin Fee at Sidley Austin, is a former CVLS board member and current chair of the Sidley Law Clinic. Chloe arrived on May 31, weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces. Kevin and Jodie also have three boys.

Adult GAL Training Manual Available

CVLS’ Adult Guardianship Training manual is now available as a free resource for any attorney interested in handling pro bono Guardian Ad Litem cases for disabled adults. You can find it at cvls.org/resources-adultgal.

The manual provides supplemental instruction to attorneys who have already completed CVLS’ Adult GAL training. Offering roughly 120 pages of direct instruction and sample documents, it is useful to attorneys who are new to Adult GAL work, as well as to those with some familiarity in the field.

If you are interested in handling an adult GAL case, contact Susan Decostanza, decostanza@cvls.org, or Peter Ashmore, PMA@cvls.org, for more information.

Debt Issues Facing Legal Aid Clients

There was a great turnout for our seminar on Debt Issues Facing Legal Aid Clients on June 28.

Speakers, Mary E. Philipps Attorney and Angie K. Robertson, of Philipps & Philipps, Ltd provided some excellent information on the topics of debt collection and reporting as they affect legal aid clients. They also provided pizza to the hungry crowd.

Upcoming CLE opportunities can be found at cvls.org.

“Thank you really does not even begin to cover it!!! Without you we were dead in the water. All of your hard work is making our dreams come true. So, from my whole heart, Thank You.”
- CVLS Client
Race Judicata® 09.15.2016 is Chicago’s best 5K RUN with AFTERPARTY benefiting CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES** located at ARVEY FIELD in GRANT PARK featuring LIVE MUSIC and FREE FOOD and DRINKS with registration* $34 EARLY REGISTRATION $39 after August 26
*valid photo ID required for wristband
**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services is a valid 501(c)(3) charity
WWW.CVLS.ORG/JUDICATA
CATERING ORDER FORM
Please submit all orders by September 2nd.

Race Judicata® is proud to partner with Potbelly® to offer our participants and teams a delicious and convenient option for your catering needs. As the preferred caterer for Race Judicata®, Potbelly® is offering three different boxed meals which will be available during the event. Teams with tents will have their meals delivered to their tents, individuals and teams without tents may pick up their meals at the Potbelly® tent during the event. Race Bib required for individual pick up. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

Potbelly® Box Lunches include sandwich, classic potato chips, oatmeal chocolate chip cookies and a bottle of water. Sandwich of choice features fresh lettuce and tomato.

Options Include:

- Turkey Breast with Swiss Cheese
- Smoked Ham with Swiss Cheese
- Mediterranean (Veggie) Zippy Hummus, Feta Cheese, Cucumbers, Artichokes & Roasted Red Peppers

Mayo, mustard, and hot peppers on the side for Do-It-Yourself deliciousness.

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 N. Dearborn St., Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60602

__________________________  __________________________
Team Name                                                               Contact Person

__________________________  __________________________
Phone Number                                                             E-mail Address

I would like to order the following number of boxed meals. Each meal is $10

Turkey  _____  Ham  _____  Mediterranean (Veggie)  _____

Credit Card Number  □ American Express  □ Mastercard  □ Visa

__________________________  __________________________
Expiration Date                                                               

__________________________  __________________________
Signature                                                                     Date
Upcoming CVLS Events

GAL For Minors Training
Wednesday, July 13
CVLS Offices, 12-2 p.m.

Susan Decostanza, 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.

Seminar | Tort Defense
Wednesday, July 20
CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

Join us as veteran trial attorney Guy D. Geleerd, Jr. demystifies the art of tort defense. Guy will present procedures and practical advice for navigating your first case from beginning to end.

GAL for Minors Seminar | Cultural Competency for Pro Bono Attorneys
Thursday, July 21
CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

Presented by:
Keyuana Muhammad,
doctoral intern from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology

CVLS is pleased to bring back our CLE partnership with The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, for a series of six seminars held on the third Thursday of each month through July.

New Volunteer Orientations
CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM
Thursday, July 14
Thursday, August 11

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!