CVLS Celebrates 52 years of Legal Aid

In the spring of 1964 a group of Chicago lawyers determined, after much discussion, that there was an unmet need in Chicago for legal assistance to people who were unable to afford it on their own. They partnered with neighborhood churches and a total of 15 attorneys launched what they called an “experiment in the ministry of legal aid.” Out of a concern that effective legal assistance be provided for the underprivileged “lest our adversary system be included under the merchandiser dictum that ‘you get what you pay for.’”

They started out by hosting legal advice clinics in three Chicago churches, Liberty Baptist Church at 4849 S. Park Way (later renamed Martin Luther King Drive); Holy Family Lutheran Church, 1101 S. Larrabee St.; and St. Matthew Methodist Church, 350 W. Oak Ave. Legal aid clinics were not an untested way to assist to the underserved, but it was difficult to determine the practical ways that the need for legal aid was not being met.

Fifty two years later that experiment has grown into Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. Since the beginning CVLS has maintained its dedication to expanding access to effective legal advice and providing education and support for its volunteers. Today CVLS supports 2,200 volunteer attorneys who, last year alone, completed 3,095 cases. In those 52 years CVLS has helped over 375,000 Chicagoans navigate complex legal situations.

Last month CVLS welcomed its 24th legal clinic into the fold. We could most certainly not do this work without the support and efforts of our volunteers to provide high quality legal service to our clients and their families. Our pro bono attorneys handle more litigation and more family law cases than any other legal aid program in Illinois. Please consider making a gift of $52 to ensure we continue to guarantee access to justice in Chicago.

Cvls.org/donate
Pro Bono Honor Roll member missed his mail, honored anyway

Daniel Thomann, who was named on our Pro Bono Honor Roll at Law & Disorder in April, unfortunately was unable to attend. In fact, it was not until a month after the event that he became aware he had been honored at all. He sent the following note to CVLS Executive Director Meg Benson when he realized his honor. We sincerely appreciate Thomann’s hard work, commitment to providing legal representation to low-income Chicagoans and we thank him for his continued involvement.

Dear Ms. Benson,

Your March 14, 2016 letter made its way into a strange pocket in my backpack and I did not see it until last night. Let me say that I am deeply honored by the recognition and regret that I was not able to respond sooner or attend the event on April 20.

I have been attending the clinic and taking cases since I first launched my solo practice in 2009, and CVLS has definitely had a major impact on my practice and my pro bono work over the years. In fact, some other clinic volunteers and I (Jake Briskman and Chris Elmore) started a nonprofit in January to set up a volunteer-based pro bono representation system in place in underserved areas of the country. The organization is called Volunteer Immigrant Defense Advocates (VIDA), and CVLS was a major inspiration in the way we plan to structure representation for eligible clients. We will be opening an office in Knoxville, Tennessee on June 1, and yesterday we found out that we have been approved to host our attorney for that office as an Equal Justice Works justice AmeriCorps fellow. She will primarily be working with unaccompanied children in removal proceedings, but will also support our volunteers who will take other types of cases. You can learn more about VIDA at www.vidaimmigration.org.

Thanks again for the recognition, it really means a lot to me. I look forward to continuing to work with CVLS and the immigration clinic.

Best regards,

Daniel

Board of Directors Elects Officers

Congratulations to our newly elected Board of Directors President Steve Raminiak, Law Offices of Steve Raminiak, P.C.; Kristen Hudson, Chuhak & Tecson, PC, was named ex-officio, replacing Christopher Skey, Clark Hill PLC.

The CVLS Board of Directors held its 2016 officers election recently. The new officers include:

- President – Steve Raminiak, Law Offices of Steve Raminiak
- Financial Vice President – Amanda Jones, DLA Piper
- Development Vice President – Brion Doherty, Motherway & Napleton
- Client Services Vice President – Dan Winters, Retired – Jenner & Block
- Secretary – Ed Del Hierro, Kirkland & Ellis
- Executive Committee – Kim Halvorsen, Clifford Law Offices
  Arnie Gough, Winston & Strawn
  Cantrell Jones, Dentons

Case Notes

Thirteen years ago, CVLS helped Ms. O adopt her three nieces after their mom was incarcerated. For years, the children lived with their aunt while enjoying a relationship with their dad, who also provided support. But, in 2014, their dad suddenly died. As a long time city worker, he had a pension, but he’d neglected to remove his ex-wife as primary beneficiary after their divorce. So, Ms. O came back to CVLS for help getting those pension benefits for the children.

Eleni Katsoulis, chair of CVLS’ Junior Board, applied to the pension board on behalf of the children. The board rejected the application because of the adoption. Katsoulis appealed, and argued the case before the pension board, pointing out that the law allows children to inherit from their biological parents after an adoption. She won, and now these children will receive pension benefits, including two years of retroactive payments, until their 18th birthdays.
**Represent Detained Immigrants at Bond Hearings**

At the request of the Chicago immigration court, CVLS and the American Immigration Lawyers’ Association (AILA) are partnering to offer attorneys the opportunity to represent detained immigrants in bond proceedings. Representation by counsel gives detained immigrants who do not pose a safety or flight risk, the chance of release on bond, and allows the immigration court to conduct these proceedings more efficiently and effectively. No other legal aid organizations do this work and immigration law permits a limited scope appearance for the bond hearing only, so this is a much-needed service to immigrants and the court and a short time commitment for volunteers. No immigration law experience is necessary. AILA will provide the training and case supervision while CVLS will provide office space, case management, and malpractice insurance for volunteers. Please join us to learn more about this exciting new opportunity. Attendees will receive one hour of CLE credit. Training will be followed by an AILA chapter meeting for AILA members only.

Monday, June 13
11:15 a.m. to Noon
Chicago Bar Association
321 S. Plymouth Court

Register in advance at probonobondproject@gmail.com.
Please provide name and contact number of all attendees.

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**Hel.YES**

Congratulations to Hel.LAS for hosting its very first legal clinic last month. Hellenic Legal Assistance Services (Hel.LAS) is a collaboration between CVLS and the Hellenic Bar Association. This pro bono clinic will meet on the second Saturday of the month to provide Greek Americans with legal information, referrals and potential representation in a linguistically and culturally sensitive environment.

Pictured L to R:
- **Eleni Katsoulis** - President, CVLS Junior Board
- **James Soukoulis** – President, Hellenic Foundation
- **Tom Massouras** – Former President of the Hellenic Bar Association
- **Eleni Koumelis** – President of the Hellenic Bar Association

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**Junior Board Adds Two More**

The CVLS Junior Board of Directors added two new members to its roster at the May meeting.

Elaina Emerick Andrade, Holland & Knight, was approved unanimously by the board. Andrade’s litigation practice focuses on product liability, as well as the finance and insurance industries and state entities and entertainment and media law.

Mila Farbstein, a former Robina Fellow who currently practices consumer rights at Edelman Combs Latturner & Goodwin was also approved unanimously by the board. Farbstein has continued her work in the public interest field by working with the Nursing Home Ombudsman program at the Legal Assistance Foundation, and serving as Chair of the Serving Our Seniors Committee with the Chicago Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Society.
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
Reserve a team tent today for your company or running team and you’ll have the perfect place to meet, hang out, eat, and socialize while enjoying all the race festivities.

Bypass the packet pick-up upon arrival at the race site on Thursday, September 10th, your tent will be set-up and stocked with all your race necessities—including goody bags, t-shirts and race numbers.

Space is limited. All tent rentals are on a first-come-first-served basis. Tent rental deadline is August 12.

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 North Dearborn St., Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60602

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Team Name __________________________ Contact Person __________________________

Phone Number __________________________ E-mail Address __________________________

Tent Size □ Large □ Small Number of Tents __________

In order to better serve you please let us know how many tables and chairs you will need. (Small tent limit: 2 tables and 8 chairs; Large tent limit: 3 tables 12 chairs)

Tables ____________ Chairs ____________

In addition to tables and chairs, please contact me about the following special requests:

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Pricing:

Without Sponsorship
Large 20 x 10 $999
Small 10 x 10 $799

With Sponsorship
Large 20 x 10 $749
Small 10 x 10 $549

Credit Card Number __________________________ American Express □ Mastercard □ Visa □

Expiration Date __________________________
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 $10      TOTAL ($): __________

Turkey ___________    Ham ___________    Mediterranean (Veggie) ___________

Credit Card Number  □ American Express  □ Mastercard  □ Visa

__________________________    _________________________
Signature                                             Date
Upcoming CVLS Events

**Immigration Court Bond Training**
Monday, June 13
CAB Offices, 11:15 a.m.

CVLS and AILA are partnering to offer attorneys the opportunity to represent detained immigrants in bond proceedings. Representation by counsel gives detained immigrants who do not pose a safety or flight risk, the chance of release on bond, and allows the immigration court to conduct these proceedings more efficiently and effectively.

**GAL for Minors | Personality Disorders**
Thursday, June 16
CVLS Offices, 12:15 p.m.

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 at CVLS.

**Seminar | Debt Issues Facing Legal Aid Clients**
Tuesday, June 28
CVLS Offices, 12:15 p.m.

Presented by:
David J. Philipps, Philips & Philips, Ltd.
Angie K. Robertson, Philips & Philips, Ltd.

While representing low-income clients, pro bono and legal aid attorneys often discover that debt issues impact other areas of their lives and cases. This seminar will provide a foundation for consumer law attorneys or any attorney interested in taking on a consumer law matter. Lunch will be provided, please register in advance.

**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

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!