Junior Board of Directors Elected for 2016

The CVLS Junior Board of Directors held elections this month. New board members include Jonathan Adair, of Kirkland & Ellis; Raechel Bimmerle, of Sidley Austin; Melissa Caballero, of the Law Offices of Jonathan Merel; Nicole Capretta, of First Defense Legal Aid; Shunte’ Goss, of the Law Office of Shunte’ Goss; Patrick Maloney, of Latham & Watkins; Andy Miller, of Locke Lord; Furqan Mohammed, of Perkins Coi.

The Junior Board gives younger attorneys the opportunity to promote CVLS’ programs and services and support the mission of providing high-quality pro bono services to low-income Chicagoans. Membership on the board includes associate attorneys at large firms and solo practitioners, united in their belief that access to legal representation should be available to everyone, not just those who can afford it. The board’s annual event, Vino + Van Gogh, raises funds and awareness for CVLS and host CLE events geared toward young attorneys.

Thanks for Making Law & Disorder a Success

Thank you to the over 200 people who attended Law & Disorder in April, the annual event celebrates the spirit of pro bono while honoring the good works of CVLS’ volunteers. Law & Disorder is CVLS’ opportunity to thank its dedicated volunteers and recognize those who have gone above and beyond to provide legal representation that changes the lives of low-income Chicagoans.

This year’s Court of Honor awards went to Judge Grace Dickler and Judge Pamela Loza, of the Circuit Court of Cook County’s Domestic Relations Division. Judges Dickler and Loza were imperative in creating the Child Rep Program and they both consistently treat pro bono attorneys with courtesy and respect, while remaining sensitive to the needs of pro se litigants.

Bruce Zumstein was given the Lifetime Award in recognition for his work since 1991 founding and chairing the Precious Blood Legal Clinic. His career-long contributions to the clinic and CVLS have affected amazing change in the community and the lives of the clients served.

Board of Directors Adds Members

The CVLS Board of Directors recently added four new members. Welcome to Deborah Bone, of Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila; Michelle Marek Figueiredo, of Kaye Scholer; Julie Marian, of Latham & Watkins; and S. Patrick McKey, of Bryan Cave.

Four members were re-elected to the board, including Ed Del Hierro, of Kirkland & Ellis; Laverne Horton, of Tribune Publishing; Amanda Jones, of DLA Piper; and Rawn Heinhard, of Neal, Gerger & Eisenberg.

Sincere thanks go to our exiting board members, Kristen Hudson, Rob Guenthner and Adam Goodman. Both Hudson and Goodman served two full terms on the Board. Hudson will continue in her role as Ex-Officio Board President. Our sincere gratitude goes to the CVLS 2016 board.

Case Notes

Arnie and his wife couldn’t buy a house on their own so Arnie’s brother co-signed the mortgage. Unfortunately, Arnie couldn’t keep up his payments and the home went into foreclosure. Arnie desperately wanted to leave the property as soon as possible and protect what was left of his brother’s credit. Sal Lopez of Robson Lopez LLC took the case and within a matter of weeks negotiated a deed in lieu of foreclosure and got the foreclosure dismissed. Arnie is breathing a sigh of relief knowing he mitigated damage to his brother’s
Board President Hudson Receives Alta May Hulett Award

CVLS Board President Kristen Hudson was recently awarded the 2016 Alta May Hulett Award by the Chicago Bar Association’s Alliance for Women. The annual award honors one outstanding woman lawyer who has made significant contributions to the advancement of women in the legal profession or other areas, and whose career exemplifies the highest level of professional achievement, ethics and excellence.

“I am honored to receive this award and join the ranks of the women who have won in the past,” said Hudson, who is a Principal at Chuhak & Teeson, P.C.. “Helping women further their careers is something I believe is really important, inside and outside of the legal profession.”

Hudson is a longtime CVLS volunteer, but also has worked closely with the Coalition of Women’s Initiative in Law and the Women in Insurance Subcommittee with the American Bar Association’s Insurance Coverage Litigation Subcommittee. She also works to bring recognition to other women attorneys, mentors women associates and champions the success of her female colleagues.

CVLS Staff Attorney Profiled by Penn Law

Penn Law profiled Staff Attorney Rob Zielinski last month. Zielinski works is the Staff Attorney for the Child Representative Program, where in addition to maintaining his own family law caseload, he also works as a child rep on his own cases, handles guardian ad litem cases, divorces, and adoptions.

Rob first worked for CVLS in the Access to Justice Program in 2014, while finishing his third year at the University of Chicago. While at Penn, he worked with the Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic and was a member of multiple pro bono organizations, including the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, the Housing Rights Project and the Animal Law Project.

When Penn granted Rob a postgraduate fellowship he returned to Chicago and began working at CVLS. He does all the intake for the program, supervises and supports volunteer attorneys, and recruits and runs trainings for potential volunteers, while maintaining his own caseload.

Loan Modification Keeps Couple In Their Home

David and Suzie had lived in their condo for 37 years and raised their family there. Unfortunately, in 2009, David suffered a series of strokes and was no longer able to work. They were able to pay their bills using income from Suzie’s job at Dominick’s and their savings. In 2014, when Dominick’s closed, they were still paying off medical bills and their savings was running out. In addition, with the loss of Suzie’s job, they lost their medical insurance. Not surprisingly, they fell behind on their mortgage and went into foreclosure. Volunteer Rich Orman agreed to represent David and Suzie when their case was referred to the Circuit Court of Cook County Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program.

The bank had denied David and Suzie a loan modification, deeming their current payments affordable. Rich fought that decision, arguing that David and Suzie the payments were not reasonable under the circumstances. After months of back and forth, the bank relented and offered David and Suzie a permanent and affordable loan modification.

New Volunteer Orientations

CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM
- Thursday, May 12
- Thursday, June 9

To read Penn Law’s profile of CVLS Staff Attorney Rob Zielinski please visit bit.ly/1r2yrrn.

Please visit www.cvls.org/cle to register for a seminar.