Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone’s fight.

Upcoming Events

- **October 6** - Bankruptcy Part 3: From Filing to Discharge, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- **October 10** - Columbus Day, CVLS offices closed
- **October 13** - New Volunteer Orientation, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- **October 14** - Vino + Van Gogh, 6 p.m.
- **October 18** - GAL for Minors Training, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m., CVLS offices
- **November 10** - New Volunteer Orientation, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
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- **November 16** - Bond Immigration Training, 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. CVLS offices

See you at Vino + Van Gogh

Vino + Van Gogh is right around the corner. Please consider joining the CVLS Junior Board at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 14 at the National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halstead St. Vino + Van Gogh offers the opportunity to make new connections within Chicago’s legal community, enjoy tasty food and drinks, while helping raise money that enables CVLS to provide civil legal aid to Chicagoans who otherwise could not afford it.

See page 5 for more information.

Thousands of runners participate in Race Judicata®

Thank you to everyone who came out to earlier this month. The race was a huge success, the weather couldn’t have been better and thousands of runners and walkers came out to support CVLS’ mission. We had such a blast we’re already working on next year’s race and we hope to see you there.

This year nearly 5,000 members of Chicago’s legal community came out to support equal access to justice.

They ran, walked, and partied into the night at Arvey Field in Grant Park. Attendees were able to see themselves as they partied, with pictures of revelers streamed on a twenty foot tall screen. Any photo posted to Instagram, Twitter or Google+ with the #RaceJudicata hashtag went up onto the big screen. Hundreds of people on Instagram posted pics waiting at the start corral, snacking on bananas, or falling down from exhaustion after finishing their run.

Race Judicata® is CVLS’ largest fundraising event of the year. Our donors, volunteers and supporters make it possible for CVLS to do pro bono our way. Our sincere thanks go out to everyone who came and we hope to see you again in 2017.
A long, (often) purple journey

On August 16, 2001 two memorable events happened in Chuck Aron’s life. That morning, he lost his brother-in-law, Paul Bracken, to Early-Onset Alzheimer’s and that evening he ran his first Race Judicata.

“Race Judicata is very close to me,” Chuck told us. “That’s why I never miss it.”

In the interim years, Chuck took up running again, something he had stopped doing after running two marathons over six weeks in 1978 led to knee surgery. He began running in Paul’s honor, raising thousands of dollars for the Alzheimer’s Association over the years.

This year Chuck turned 70, just a few weeks before Paul would have turned 73. To mark the occasion, Chuck will run 73 races in one year, all the while raising money to support Alzheimer’s research. Race Judicata was number 67 on the calendar.

Chuck wore a purple tutu when he ran the Esprit De She, a women’s-focused half marathon where Chuck was the featured male runner. To up the ante, he dyed his hair purple and wore the purple tutu in this year’s Race Judicata after meeting his goal of raising $7500 for Alzheimer’s research before race day.

Chuck received CVLS’ Distinguished Service award for his volunteer efforts with CVLS, in 1998. For more information about Chuck’s efforts to raise money for Alzheimer’s research, visit www.73for70.com.

Why is Pro Bono important to you?

“Because people who can’t afford to be represented usually get stepped on. I’m on the panel over at the juvenile court. Parents charged with child abuse get lost if they don’t have help. It’s the same reason I raise money for Alzheimer’s, it needs help. This is something that’s gotta be done.”

- Chuck Aron (left)

AILA Expands

This month Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO) will launch Legal Answers, an online portal for Illinois attorneys to provide limited scope legal advice to lower-income Illinois residents about their civil legal issues. Legal Answers uses technology to overcome barriers presented by geography and scarce local legal resources.

Qualified users can post their civil legal question to their state’s website. Volunteer attorneys can log on to the website, select questions to answer, and provide information and basic legal advice. Users will then be emailed when their question receives a response. It’s like a virtual walk-in legal clinic.

Clients get free, easy-to-use access to an attorney, at any time of day, from anywhere they can get online. Volunteer attorneys provide pro bono services any time of the day from anywhere they can access the internet.

It is a win-win, and it couldn’t be easier for attorneys to do good and fulfill their professional responsibility. ILAO is now actively recruiting pro bono attorneys for their October launch. Volunteer at goo.gl/dzKSTM.

Tipping the scales

This year saw record-shattering donations to CVLS’ tip boxes at Race Judicata.

Every year, volunteers hand out beer, wine, hot dogs, and popcorn to hungry runners and partiers.

Hungry runners and partiers, in turn, graciously contribute gratuities that are collected and used to help ensure CVLS’ mission to ensure access to justice for the poor and working poor in Chicago.

In an average year, CVLS usually collects $200-$300 in tips at the race. This year, however, $980 dollars was donated. Thank you to this year’s generous tippers.

Race Judicata is our largest fundraiser of the year. This year nearly 5,000 members of Chicago’s legal community ran, walked and partied in support of equal access to justice. CVLS relies on the generosity of our attorney volunteers and the financial support that allows us to offer a wide breadth of services.

Please consider visiting cvls.org/donate to help us continue our mission.

To see the individual winners at this year’s Race Judicata turn to Page 7.
Ms. R came to CVLS seeking guardianship of her adult sister. Her family is Bhutanese refugees and the adult sister with disabilities was raped on more than one occasion in the refugee camp where the family lived in Nepal.

The sister gave birth to two kids as a result of the assaults and CVLS helped Ms. R get guardianship of her nieces as well. Volunteer, Abosede Odunsi, represented Ms. R in the adult guardianship case and volunteer Agi Grossman was appointed GAL. PILI intern Kaitlin Summers filed guardianship petitions for the sister’s kids. Judge Kennedy would not appoint Ms. R as guardian on the first court date because the kids didn’t have birth certificates, a result of the children having been born in a refugee camp. The judge had Kailtin write a Memorandum of Law on the question of whether or not a Cook County court can appoint a guardian without a birth certificate for the kids.

Ms. R cares for her sister, her own children, her sister’s children and most of the family, who lives together in a small apartment, so Ms. R was also able to meet with our social worker, Melissa Petkovic, to discuss some housing resources and options.

Volunteer Jeff Glickman sent this message to CVLS Clinic Coordinator Kathy Koester, when he appealed a SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) overpayment on behalf of our client, Ms. K. Jeff was unable to win the appeal, but he was able to increase Ms. K’s SNAP benefits enough to cover her repayment amount and then some.

“Enclosed please find a copy of the intake form for Ms. K. She came to CVLS seeking assistance in contesting a SNAP benefits overpayment owed by her to the Department of Human Services. Although I was unable to lower the overpayment amount, I was able to increase Ms. K’s current SNAP benefits, so that I) she is now able to pay back the overpayment with additional funds, and 2) even with the monthly payments for the overpayment, Ms. K will still receive additional benefits than she had previously received. Therefore, I am returning this intake form to you, and I will be closing my file on this matter.”

We love highlighting the excellent work our volunteers do. If you’ve successfully handled a difficult case, came up with a creative solution, or heard some nice words from a grateful client, please let Development Associate Lindsay Welbers know by sending an email to lwelbers@cvls.org to be highlighted in a future newsletter.
Tickets on sale now for Vino + Van Gogh

Join the Junior Board of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services as they host the 7th 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.

Every year local Chicago artists and students display their artwork for guests to enjoy and add to the alluring atmosphere customary for this event. A variety of media will be represented, including print art, paintings and sculpture. Art will be available to purchase through the artists at reasonable prices with a percentage donated to CVLS. All proceeds of Vino + Van Gogh go toward CVLS and our mission to provide equal access to justice to those in need.

A raffle will be held where attendees can win amazing prizes including an autographed baseball, tickets to plays or comedy clubs, workou passes or a 500 grand prize. Raffle tickets will be sold individually for $5, or 5 tickets for $20.

Date: Friday, October 14, 2016
Time: 6-10 PM
Location: National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halsted Street
Price: $65 in advance, $80 at the door
Evening attire, please

The event will feature live music, Hors d’oeuvres by Honey Butter Fried Chicken, wine and beer, all included with the ticket price. Additionally, CVLS will be raffling off amazing prizes, and displaying impressive works by current Chicago artists, which will be available for sale.

This is the seventh annual Vino + Van Gogh and it is one of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services’ signature fundraising events. Our fundraising efforts allow us to provide a wide range of free legal aid to poor and working poor Chicagoans on an individual basis. For more information visit cvls.org/vino.
Upcoming Events

**October 6** - Seminar: Bankruptcy Part 3 - From Filing to Discharge
12:1-1:15 p.m., CVLS offices
CVLS is launching a new Bankruptcy Program. The third part in our training series, hosted by Salvador Lopez and David Yen, is full but the series will be offered again in the future.

**October 10** - Columbus Day, CVLS offices closed

**October 13** - New Volunteer Orientation
12:15 - 1:15 p.m., CVLS offices

**October 14** - Vino + Van Gogh, 6 p.m.,
National Hellenic Museum, 33 S. Halsted St.

**October 18** - GAL For Minors Training
12 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.

**November 10** - New Volunteer Orientation
12:15 - 1:15 p.m., CVLS offices

**November 11** - Veteran’s Day, CVLS offices closed

**November 14** - Vino + Van Gogh, 6 p.m.,
National Hellenic Museum, 33 S. Halsted St.

**November 16** - Bond Immigration Hearing training
American Immigration Lawyers’ Association (AILA) will train interested attorneys to represent detained immigrants in bond hearings. This short-term pro bono opportunity asks 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. No prior immigration experience required.

**November 24 - 25** - CVLS offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday
Goodbye, Patty

Patricia Nelson, Director of Chancery Court Access to Justice and Foreclosure Mediation Programs, inimitable member of CVLS’ management team, great lawyer and long time friend and ally, was out on a medical leave this summer. Although her health issues are not life threatening, she has been approved for long term disability, and, as a result, resigned her position at CVLS.

Her CVLS colleagues and friends miss her. We know that you—her volunteers, legal aid pals and all CVLS friends—do too. We stay in touch with her and hope that she can return to us someday. In the meantime, if you’d like to send her your good wishes, feel free to send them to Margaret Benson and she will forward them to Patty.

With Patty gone, Matt Hulstein, who really stepped up during a difficult summer, has been named Supervisor of the Chancery Court Access to Justice and Foreclosure Mediation programs. Also, please welcome two new program attorneys: Margaret McWhorter (mediation) and Gabriel Borges (Chancery Court Access to Justice). Margaret Benson serves the program as court and donor liaison and placing cases with volunteers.

While we all miss Patty, she and everyone can be assured that what she built will remain strong. Last fiscal year, the access and mediation programs together opened 379 cases. That means hundreds of homeowners and other parties had well trained, compassionate attorneys representing them in court. They and all of us owe Patty our thanks for working so hard to build such great and successful programs.

Individual Results

Fastest Lawyers
Dave Strubbe 17:03  Emily Savas 19:10

Overall
Michael Ellenberger 16:58  Meshelle Rich 18:40
Rob Larocque 17:10  Olivia Syfestad 20:30
Nick Vasdekas 17:18  Summer Cardenas 20:41

Under 20
Danny Leonard 20:15  Reese Crowley 21:16
Alex Leonard 20:28  Eila Hwang 21:33
Mick Crowley 22:00  Emily Hwang 22:13

20 thru 29
Eddy Gibbons 18:47  Dawn Peacock 21:30
Eric Monteiro De Medeiros 17:48 Ellen Dohan 21:46
John MacDonald 18:14  Brittany Strauss 22:12

30 thru 39
Brian Lesiewicz 17:21  Constance Barlas 21:08
Patrick Lambe 17:32  Alicia Davis 21:19
Mark Dolgin 17:40  Kristina White 21:32

40 thru 49
Bart Huff 18:48  Christian Poland 21:52
Tom Proctor 18:55  Ana Juan Bustos 23:52

50 thru 59
Dan Marks 18:58  Colleen Konicek 23:01
Michael Cramarossa 20:17 Brenda Brecheen 23:20
Terry Donahue 20:32  Sari Pettinger 25:17

60 and Over
Michael Roth 22:01  Crystal Bush 28:36
Stephen Moore 22:28  Rebecca Palmeyer 29:25
William Hrabak 22:34  Rita Ayers 29:45

Largest Team
Grant Thornton LLP

Tshirt contest
Top 3
RLM TrialGraphix
Ankin Law Office
Baker & McKenzie

Honorable Mention
Chicago Association for Law Libraries
Latimer Levay Fyock
Berger Schatz