



# Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight.

## Upcoming Events

**August 14** - New Volunteer Orientation - 12:15 p.m., CVLS Office

**August 21** - Guardianship Planning for Undocumented Immigrants Clinic - 4:00 pm, Latinos Progresando

**September 11** - RJ Team Packet Pickup - 11:30 am-6:00 pm, CVLS Office

**September 12** - Race Judicata - 6:30 pm, Lincoln Park



Stephanie Stern, Sidley Austin LLP

## EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED

Adoption Finalized with Help from Sidley Volunteer!

Adoption is a tricky process. It's paperwork-intensive, and there are often bumps in the road - something volunteer attorney Stephanie Stern soon found out!

Monica and Michael sought to jointly adopt three-year-old Gregory. Although not biologically related to them, Gregory had been in their care since he was just four months old. He was essentially handed to the couple by his biological mother, a woman they knew from the neighborhood.

Gregory's mother had initially intended to leave him temporarily, but she soon agreed to grant Monica legal guardianship. After over a year without communication from the biological mother and with no clue as to the

identity of the biological father, Monica and Michael decided they wanted to officially adopt Gregory.

There were several bumps in the road, some big and some small, on the way to adoption. Although Michael disclosed his criminal background, Monica forgot that she had been arrested once in the past. The arrest was unwarranted and did not lead to a conviction, but it came up during a routine background check and needed to be addressed.

Stephanie wasted no time resolving this issue and addressing everything else the Court threw at her. After finalizing the adoption, she had this to say: "Monica and Michael were a pleasure to work with; so appreciative of everything I did and great clients all around."

## RACE JUDICATA®

Don't wait until the last minute to start planning your firm's Race Judicata team. This year's event will be held on September 12th so please visit [www.cvls.org/judicata](http://www.cvls.org/judicata) to get started.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

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Hardin  
SIDLEY



Illinois Governor, J.B. Pritzker, stopped by CVLS to sign the Consumer Protection Act, HB88

## New FREE CLE seminars available online!

### How to Handle a Workers' Compensation Case

Howard Ankin, Ankin Law Office LLC  
1.00 hrs CLE credit  
<https://bit.ly/2WsUIUf>

### Inexpensive Ways to Preserve a Digital Footprint for Litigation

Julian Ackert, Managing Director at iDiscovery Solutions (iDS)  
1.00 hrs CLE credit  
<https://bit.ly/2K4fNfv>

### Nuts and Bolts of Decedent's Estates

Meghan Terry Davis, Hoogendoorn & Talbot  
1.00 hrs CLE credit  
<https://bit.ly/2WSrWLV>

More available at  
[www.cvls.org/onlinecle](http://www.cvls.org/onlinecle)

## HISTORY HAPPENS AT CVLS

### Governor Signs Consumer Fairness Act

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the new Consumer Fairness Act at CVLS on July 29, providing relief to the residents of Illinois from predatory interest rates on their debt. Thanks to the bill, post-judgment interest rates will drop from 9 percent to 5 percent, and the collection window will shrink from 26 years to 17 years.

Thank you to CVLS' Matt Hulstein, Governor Pritzker, Illinois house and senate members, and all of the fellow legal aid organizations and employees who have worked so hard for so long to make this bill a reality.

**"Consumer debt is at an all-time high all across the United States, and there are millions of people, including too many Illinois families, who are struggling under unconscionable circumstances,"**

**-Gov J.B. Pritzker**

HB88 takes effect January 1, 2020.



## MORE THAN AN ATTORNEY

Volunteer Acts as Advocate, Emotional Support, and Teacher



Vicki Karl, Executive Director  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago

Clients come to CVLS with a variety of issues - not all of them legal. We listen and try to understand their needs, referring clients to other resources as necessary. After all, lawyers can't do everything. That is, unless you're represented by a volunteer attorney like Vicki Karl.

Vicki first met Ms. B. at Hel.LAS, our Hellenic Legal Assistance Services Clinic. 54-year-old Ms. B. came to the clinic wanting to apply for U.S. citizenship. She arrived in the United States at 10 years old and had lived as a permanent legal resident since then.

Ms. B. was married twice, is legally blind, and suffers from scoliosis, a brain tumor, and a dislocated back and hips. Her own medical issues and lack of formal education seriously hindered Ms. B.'s self-confidence. Vicki set time aside to really get to know Ms. B.

"After I got to know her better," Vicki said, "I discovered that she was quite bright, and I tried to use our time together to boost her self-esteem."

Vicki met with Ms. B. several times to gather information and prepare the documents for her application. After submitting her paperwork, Vicki was

informed that Ms. B. was scheduled for an interview. At first, Ms. B. wanted to apply for a medical waiver to avoid the citizenship test.

Although Vicki provided Ms. B. with the appropriate forms, she also tried to convince her that she could pass the test on her own. Vicki met with Ms. B. again and again, helping her study and even creating stories to help Ms. B. understand U.S. history. Ms. B. quickly gained confidence and was determined to pass.

On April 22, 2019, the day of the interview, Ms. B. arrived in a disheveled state, having just undergone a painful procedure on her back. But she was determined to take the test! Although she was nervous, Ms. B. performed beautifully, easily obtaining the requisite number of correct questions.

"Upon hearing that she passed, she momentarily forgot her physical pain, and jumped up and hugged me and the hearing officer," Vicki remembers. "After the interview, we spent some time talking and taking pictures, and she seemed to have become a different person— happy, confident, and optimistic about her future."

Vicki told us that representing Ms. B. was one of the most rewarding experiences in her legal career. It sounds like the feeling is mutual because Ms. B. sent the following e-mail:

**"Honey, I thank you with all my heart and soul for your help and support. You are a wonderful person, and I wish you health and happiness, always and forever.**

**I am going to print out this picture and it will be on my dresser forever."  
- Ms. B.**

## E-FILE UPDATE

Cook County Sheriff Changes Request Service of Process

The Cook County Sheriff's Office recently launched an e-file service for individuals needing to serve civil court documents. The e-filing portal allows parties to electronically request and upload documents such as summons and subpoenas, in addition to paying corresponding service fees, without having to make a trip to the courthouse, according to the sheriff's website. E-filing is an option available to all who wish to utilize the Cook County's Sheriff's Office to serve process in Cook County.

E-Filing is NOT mandatory, and individuals may continue to file their requests in person at any Cook County Sheriff's Office Civil Process location or by mailing their papers to the Daley Center location, along with payment.

## IMMIGRATION CLINIC

August 21, 4:00 pm

Latinos Progresando

3047 West Cermak Road, Chicago, IL 60623

Volunteer attorneys and interpreters needed!

Volunteers are needed to advise families on the forms of guardianship available in Illinois and, in appropriate cases, assist families in completing short-term guardianship forms on site. The goal of this clinic is to provide undocumented parents with a legal safety plan for their children in the event of the parents' detention or deportation.

This is a limited scope pro bono opportunity that does not require any representation of clients after the clinic date. Training for this opportunity is via an online video. CVLS staff will be on site to provide supervision and guidance.

Email Rebekah Rashidfarokhi to register for this event. Please indicate if you speak Spanish or if you will need an interpreter. If you are not a registered CVLS volunteer, please also provide your phone number, address, ARDC number, and date of admission to the Illinois bar in your email. For additional information please email Rebekah at [rebekah@cvls.org](mailto:rebekah@cvls.org).

# RACE JUDICATA 2019 CATERING ORDER FORM

Please submit all orders by August 30th



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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** **Email**

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**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Exp Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** **Date**

25TH ANNIVERSARY  
CHARITY SPORT EVENT



5K

**RUN  
& WALK**

CHICAGO  
VOLUNTEER  
LEGAL  
SERVICES

**INCLUDED:**



T-SHIRT



GOODY BAG



FOOD



DRINKS



LIVE MUSIC



AFTER PARTY



**RACE JUDICATA®**  
**SEP 12 2019** LINCOLN PARK, CHICAGO

Early Registration: \$34 .....

After Aug 23: \$39 .....

Race Starts: 6:30 PM .....

Check-In Starts: 4:30 PM .....

大成 DENTONS

MAYER | BROWN

WINSTON  
& STRAWN  
LLP

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Chicago Volunteer Legal Services



Colleen M. Hurley, Attorney at Law, Lavelle Law, Ltd.

## COOLER MINDS PREVAIL

### CVLS Volunteer Amicably Settles Child Rep Case!

It's rare for a contested family law case to have a truly happy ending. Often when CVLS is appointed to represent a child, the goal is to minimize harm as much as possible.

J. is a sweet, eight-year-old girl who was stuck between parents who would not stop fighting with each other about parenting time. When volunteer Colleen Hurley first accepted the Court's appointment as Child Representative, it looked like the parties would never find any common ground.

Colleen quickly got to work. She met with each family member, noticing that their issues mostly stemmed from hurt emotions. Despite the shouting and the arguing, J.'s parents actually shared more in common than they realized. After allowing some time to heal, Colleen calmly brought the family together.

The parties and Colleen held a successful settlement conference, where they worked hard to compromise and keep the best interests of J. at the forefront. Colleen drafted and entered a signed parenting agreement that satisfied everyone.

After she sent the final order to the parties, she got a lovely thank you note from the entire family:

**"Thank you, Colleen, for everything. Your time and patience with this case and our child. We truly appreciated all your efforts. I wish you the best of luck and success in your career and life in general."**

Having worked on some of the toughest cases through CVLS, Colleen is finally eligible for the Domestic Relations Child Representative Roster. We know she will be a fantastic addition. Congratulations, Colleen!

## VINO + VAN GOGH

2019



Join the Junior Board of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services as they host the 10th 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.

For more information about how your company can become a sponsor of the event, please visit [cvls.org/vinovangogh](http://cvls.org/vinovangogh).

**Date:** Friday, November 15, 2019

**Time:** 6-10 PM

**Location:** Ovation Chicago  
2324 W Fulton Street

**Price:** \$65 in advance, \$80 at the door  
*Evening attire, please*

## LOUSY LENDER

### Client Keeps Home After Unnecessary Explanation



Damon Ritenhouse, EV Has, LLC

Two years ago, Mariam's husband suffered a massive heart attack and died in their home. The loss of his income caused a default on the mortgage, and Mariam faced the terrifying prospect of losing the home to foreclosure.

Mariam and her husband owned the property as joint tenants, so she became the sole owner the moment he passed away. Mariam had enough income to qualify for a modification of her loan, but her lender kept insisting she probate his estate in order to be approved. As

any first-year law student can tell you, probating an estate is unnecessary if the property is held in joint tenancy!

Fortunately, Judge Sullivan referred Mariam to CVLS. We accepted the appointment and placed the case with Damon Ritenhouse of EV Haus. Damon worked with Mariam to get her modification application reviewed and approved.

"The client and her family were very diligent, and after several months, we were able to obtain an affordable modification offer and have the case dismissed," explained Damon.

**"It was great to work with the [family] and help them get a good resolution under difficult circumstances."**

The loan was brought out of default with a new, affordable payment, and Miriam was able to keep her family home. Thank you to Judge Sullivan for the referral and to Damon for all your hard work!

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## SEMINAR SPEAKERS NEEDED

CVLS hosts many Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars throughout the year in many formats—live programs, webcasts, archived videos—and we're constantly on the lookout for new speakers and topic ideas. Our goal is to deliver helpful, practical law-related information to Chicago lawyers.

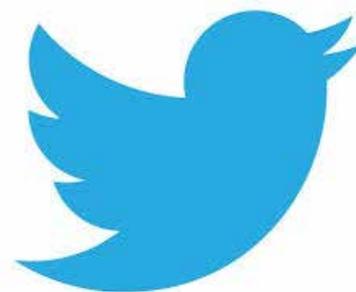
Please consider becoming a CVLS CLE speaker. There are many benefits associated with being a CVLS speaker; namely, raising your professional profile while networking and contributing to the profession. Speakers will be recognized on the CVLS CLE website, print materials, and other outlets. Speakers are also eligible to receive CLE credit for their presentations.

Interested? Please email Peter Ashmore, CVLS Operations and Training Director, at [pashmore@cvls.org](mailto:pashmore@cvls.org) or call (312) 332-1688.



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## Your generosity makes a difference.

*Last year's donations provided life changing support to thousands of families.*

PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT

[cvls.org/donate](https://cvls.org/donate)

The logo for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services is a black, stylized shape resembling a speech bubble or a folded piece of paper. It has a white rectangular cutout on the right side. The text "CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters inside the black shape.

**CHICAGO  
VOLUNTEER  
LEGAL  
SERVICES**

33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60602