



Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight.

Upcoming Events

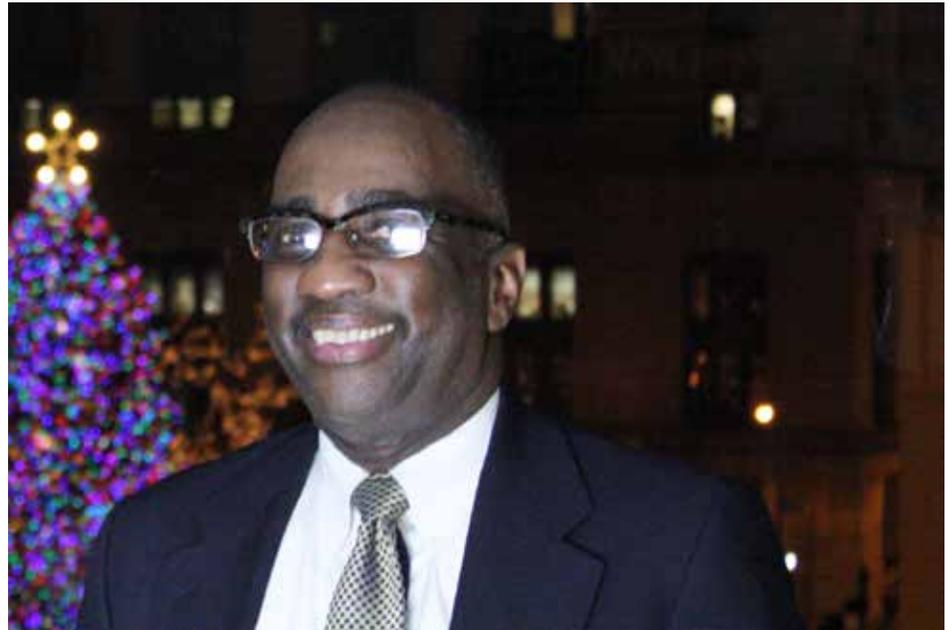
February 21 - Seminar: Preparing 2018 Income Taxes - 12:15 p.m.

February 26 - Seminar: Child Representative Training - 1:30 p.m.

March 4 - CVLS Closed - Pulaski Day

March 14 - New Volunteer Orientation - 1:30 p.m.

March 20 - Seminar: Mediation and Utilizing Center for Conflict Resolution Services - 12:15 p.m.



James T. Derico, Jr., At-Large Cook County Circuit Judge

CVLS VOLUNTEER HITS THE BENCH

Pro Bono Attorney Appointed as Circuit Judge!

Experienced volunteer and two-time recipient of the CVLS Distinguished Service Award, James T. Derico, Jr., has been appointed as an At-Large Cook County Circuit Judge. According to the Supreme Court's press release, he will fill the vacancy of the Honorable Matthew Coghlan, beginning January 28, 2019.

divorce, and bankruptcy. With the Trinity United Church of Christ (TUCC) Legal Clinic, Jim has assisted over 120 CVLS clients since 2006!

We are sad to lose Jim as a volunteer but remain proud of his accomplishments and affiliation with CVLS. Our staff wishes him the best of luck in his future as a Cook County Circuit Judge.

Jim is just the latest in a series of volunteer attorneys from CVLS who have been appointed to the bench. While he must have certainly impressed the judicial screening committee with his qualifications, CVLS and its volunteers intimately know of Jim's passion for pro bono.

Jim's caseload at CVLS was quite varied. Although he began by taking only torts and landlord-tenant cases, he has since advocated for clients facing foreclosure,

ALIGN YOUR BRAND WITH CVLS IN 2019

Did you know that CVLS has three different events each year? That's three more ways to partner with us and show Chicago that your brand is part of the fight for equal access to justice.

Learn more today at cvls.org/sponsor

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

Schiff
Hardin

SIDLEY

New FREE CLE seminars available online!

Adoption

Phil Mohr, CVLS Deputy Director
Tiffany Horstein, Family Forward Law, LLC
1.25 hours CLE credit
<https://goo.gl/8NXjbB>

General Foreclosure Loss Mitigation Overview

Matthew Hulstein, Supervisor, Chancery
Court Access to Justice Program
Gabriel Borges, Staff Attorney
1.50 hours CLE credit
<https://goo.gl/kYXFh6>

Post I-601A: Helping your Clients Navigate Consular Processing to Become Residents

Alix Strunk of Minsky, McCormick &
Hallagan, P.C.
1.00 hours CLE credit
<https://goo.gl/ZtXw8U>

More available at
www.cvls.org/onlinecle



Claire Whitehead, Associate, Swanson
Martin & Bell, LLP

MR. E'S STORY

Arbitration Veterans Defend Air Force Veteran

A six-year veteran of the United States Air Force, Mr. E was sued for more than \$27,000 after being involved in a four-way car accident. Although he works full time and receives veteran's benefits, he is the sole support of two young children and could not afford to hire an attorney to defend him.

Luckily, Mr. E contacted IL-AFLAN's hotline and, after a screening, was referred to CVLS' Veteran's Pro Bono Program where Claire Whitehead, a new associate at Swanson Martin & Bell, agreed to represent him, supervised by Swanson partner and long-time volunteer Anthony Monaco.

The arbitration did not go well--the plaintiff was awarded \$10,000. Claire and Tony rejected the award and negotiated



Anthony Monaco, Partner, Swanson Martin
& Bell, LLP



Tim Nickels, Managing Partner, Swanson
Martin & Bell, LLP

hard to resolve the case fairly for their client. Eventually, the insurance company settled the case for a mere \$1,500—an amount Mr. E can afford.

In response to our thanks to Tony and Claire, the firm's managing partner, Tim Nickels, told Claire that she had just done the most rewarding thing she will ever do as a lawyer—help someone out with a problem who otherwise would not have access to legal assistance.



GOT A MINUTE?

Michael Bloxham, doctoral intern at the Forensic Center, is conducting research on how much legal professionals know about mental health issues. Please complete and share the survey below to assist Michael with his work:

<https://bit.ly/2WuEcPD>



A mountain of Skadden gifts and sleigh driven by Pro Bono Supervisor, Eddie Houlihan

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEER SANTAS!

CVLS and Judge Susan Kennedy Sullivan extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our amazing volunteer Santas who participated in our gift program this year. In what has now become a tradition, the judge in 1806 keeps a list of families who are experiencing financial hardship, and who need help purchasing gifts for the children in their care. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we were able to provide gifts to more than 125 children in 46 families, our largest undertaking by far. Volunteers accepted this task on short notice, during a busy and expensive time of year, and many

encountered obstacles and surprises along the way. We cannot thank you enough for your patience, kindness, flexibility and selflessness. You helped make the holidays a little brighter for families in need, and we are so grateful.

Special thanks to Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Leading this effort since the program's inception in 2016, Skadden takes the largest number of families every year. Also a huge shout out to Home Depot, ShopperTrak, Stradley Ronon, and the CVLS Junior Board for partnering to take on multiple families and/or large families with 6+ kids. We could not have done this without you!



Home Depot volunteers brought joy to this deserving family.



Flora Corotis, our youngest Santa, with gifts purchased by the Corotis family for 8-year-old Anastasia



ShopperTrak volunteer Santas get it done!

GIVEN A VOICE

Divorced Mother Retains Custody of Children

Sylvia came to CVLS at the worst possible time. Her pending divorce case had already been set for trial, and there were minors involved. Although such cases are notoriously difficult for CVLS to place with attorneys, Mary Rocco bravely volunteered to represent Sylvia. Mary realized that the parties had little to no assets, but they were contesting custody of their two children, ages 15 and 17.

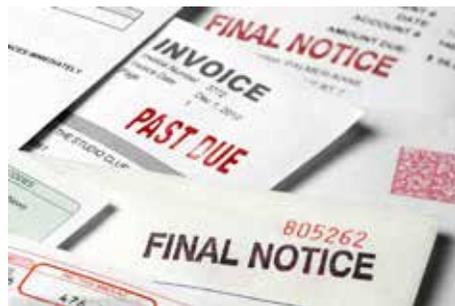
The children had been living with Sylvia for the past seven years, but Sylvia's husband insisted on being named the custodial parent. Sylvia valiantly tried to represent herself for two years. Over and over, she attempted to negotiate with her husband's attorney, but the attorney rejected all of Sylvia's settlement proposals.



Mary Rocco, Attorney at Law

Immediately after Mary stepped in as Sylvia's attorney, the opposing attorney started to take Sylvia more seriously. Mary was able to avoid trial and incorporate all of Sylvia's proposals into a final settlement agreement. Sylvia retained decision-making authority over her teenage children and was named the custodial parent in the divorce judgment.

One of the sad realities of the legal system is that self-represented litigants like Sylvia are rarely taken seriously and often outright dismissed. With the help of Mary and other pro bono attorneys, CVLS provides clients with a voice in the courtroom and equal access to justice.



NEW CLINIC FIGHTS DEBT COLLECTION

CVLS has launched The Debt Collection and Credit Protection Clinic to serve clients with consumer collection and credit reporting issues. With expertise in consumer protection litigation, debt collection defense, abusive collection practices and financial fraud, these volunteers help clients struggling with credit card collections, medical debts, car and student loans. They also help clients fix erroneous or fraudulent information on their credit reports, which can affect clients' job and housing prospects. The clinic, which meets monthly, offers various levels of assistance ranging from in-person advice to full-scope pro bono representation, depending on the client's needs, and serves as an in-depth referral service, connecting clients facing unique and challenging consumer issues with attorneys that possess the right know-how and experience. Clinic leaders hope to expand their volunteer base and serve even more clients in 2019.

LIFE CHANGING REPRESENTATION Attorney Goes Above and Beyond for Client

Pro bono attorneys do more than just represent clients. They change lives.

Ana was an undocumented immigrant. A native and citizen of Venezuela, she overstayed her visitor visa almost twenty years ago. Ana has since divorced an abusive husband, taken exclusive care of their three children with special needs, and fought to make ends meet.

In the summer of 2016, Ana's life had its first positive change. She married Mary, a United States citizen of Haitian ancestry. Mary had a similar story as Ana - she

was also divorced with three special needs children. The couple was happy together but struggled to take care of their six children. At times they were homeless and had to live inside their car.

Worried about Ana's immigration status, Ana and Mary came to CVLS' clinic at Old St. Mary's Church in 2017. The clinic referred Ana's case to the CVLS American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) clinic, who were confident they could help Ana apply for a family-based visa. AILA found the perfect volunteer attorney for Ana: Brittni Rivera of Kriezelman Burton & Associates, LLC.



Brittni Rivera, Kriezelman Burton & Associates, LLC

In her representation of Ana, Brittni completed a Lawful Permanent Resident Card ("Green Card") application. However, the filing fees for her application were prohibitive for the family. Having to take care of six children left Ana and Mary with barely enough money to pay for their expenses, let alone Ana's filing fees.

Brittni would not give up; she had vowed to change Ana's life. Brittni reached out to a nonprofit organization who donated \$2,700 to the couple toward filing fees and living expenses! The agency, known as Thumbuddy Special, even donated clothing and sensory items for the children.

Last week, Ana and Mary finally got the good news. Ana's life was changing for the second time; she was granted permanent residence. The family also has their own apartment now, thanks to Brittni's representation and the generosity of Thumbuddy.

Brittni was thrilled with the result, but she isn't satisfied yet. She told CVLS, "I look forward to representing Ana for her citizenship in a couple years!"

LAW & Disorder

2019 SPONSORSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE



Thursday, May 30 - 5:30 pm

River Roast, 315 N LaSalle St

Tickets \$100

Small Table /w 4 Tickets \$550, Large Table w/ 6 Tickets \$650

Hosted by CVLS' Board of Directors, Law & Disorder brings Chicago's diverse legal community together to celebrate pro bono and the wonderful volunteers who make it possible. Held annually since 2012, this awards and comedy show has become a favorite social event of the spring. The night begins with a relaxed reception featuring light hors-oeuvres, beer and wine. Attendees mingle with other members of Chicago's legal community, learn about the impact CVLS volunteers have had over the year, and check out the array of silent auction items, looking for an amazing deal. Next comes a fast-paced award ceremony highlighting the work of a few notable organizations and individuals, followed by the main event—a sidesplitting comedy show featuring well-known local comedians.

All proceeds of Law & Disorder will be used to further CVLS' mission to coordinate, support and promote the voluntary pro bono legal representation of the Chicago area's poor and working poor. Sponsoring this event shows that your company honors the good works of our volunteers and the commitment to equal access to justice that changes lives in our community every day.

In 2018

2,483 Active Volunteers



Closed Cases **3,002**

Your generosity makes a difference.

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

PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT
cvls.org/donate

SPONSOR LEVELS

	Patron \$5,000	Philanthropist \$3,500	Benefactor \$1,500	Supporter \$500
Recognition on all event materials, media promotion, invitations and mailings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Logo placement on event website with link	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Logo/company name displayed on large screens and/or signs at the event	Premium	Premium	Preferred	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tickets to the event	Large Table + 6 Tickets	Small Table + 4 Tickets	3	1

Visit www.cvls.org/lawanddisorder for more information or to become a sponsor!

The logo for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services is a black, stylized shape resembling a speech bubble or a banner. It has a pointed left side and a pointed right side. The text "CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters inside the shape. The text is arranged in four lines: "CHICAGO", "VOLUNTEER", "LEGAL", and "SERVICES".

**CHICAGO
VOLUNTEER
LEGAL
SERVICES**

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