



Mark Your Calendars Now!



2/11

New Volunteer
Orientation
CVLS Office
Noon

2/18

GAL for Minors
Training
CVLS Office
Noon

2/24

Seminar: "Preparing
2008 Income Taxes"
By Lawrence R.
Krupp, C.P.A.
CVLS Office
12:15 PM

3/11

New Volunteer
Orientation
CVLS Office
Noon

3/19

Seminar: "Advanced
Care Planning"
By Karen Long
CVLS Office
12:15 PM



UPCOMING EVENTS - UPCOMING EVENTS - UPCOMING EVENTS - UPCOMING EVENTS - UPCOMING EVENTS

Joy ride lands family in legal trouble.

Valerie and her son found themselves in hot water after a 2004 auto accident. It all started when her son, without permission and too young to drive, took her 1994 Jeep Cherokee for a joy ride after she came home from work. He didn't make it far before crashing into another vehicle while making a turn. After fleeing the scene, her son went to his uncle's house and called Valerie to 'fess up.

Valerie went to the accident scene, waited for the police, and filed a complaint about the stolen car. Thankfully everyone said they were ok and did not need to go to the hospital. And, while her car had major front end damage, the car her son hit suffered only a broken headlight. Then, later, she found herself trying to defend a lawsuit for over twenty thousand dollars brought by American Family Insurance, alleging extensive property damage and pain and suffering by one of their insureds.

CVLS volunteer **James Payonk, Jr.** of the **Law Offices of James A. Payonk, Jr., P.C.** agreed to represent Valerie and her son. After a two day bench trial, James was able to get Valerie dismissed on a motion for directed verdict while a substantially reduced judgment was entered against her son.

Thanks to James' hard work, Valerie was able to avoid a devastating verdict that would have burdened her with payments for years to come.

Eviction Assistance

There is a new place to go for help for those facing eviction. The Cook County Sheriff now offers the services of a Social Service Coordinator. If you have clients that are facing eviction, you or your client can call **Kate Pieri** directly at 312-603-3337. Kate will work with you to provide appropriate referrals for housing relocation, moving logistics, and any other social services that might be needed.

Congratulations

CVLS would like to congratulate long time volunteers **Jennifer and Robert Groszek** for being featured in the February edition of Chicago Lawyer for their pro bono work. Visit www.chicagolawyer magazine.com to view the article.

That'll be another \$10 if you want to file a lawsuit or an appearance in Cook County.

Cook County plaintiffs and defendants—you'll have to dig a little deeper now. The Cook County Board voted 13-4 to approve a \$10 fee addition for all civil cases, effective Feb. 1.

Commissioner Larry Suffredin (D-Evanston), who sponsored the fee, said he hopes to raise about \$3.7 million a year. Some of the money will cover the \$1 million a year for workers at eight courthouse children's waiting rooms and the cost to add four more in the suburbs, Suffredin said.

Cook County filing fees continue to be the highest in the nation.

Goodbye dear friend.

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of **Lottie L. Kaminski**. On December 12, 2008, at the age of 95 Lottie passed away leaving behind a loving family and a lifetime of good works. She was instrumental in the early days of the CVLS Amicus Poloniae Polish clinic, and her passing leaves us with a heavy heart.



Why we do what we do.

It isn't always easy. Not every case ends in victory, and not every client is grateful. Sometimes the work can be emotionally taxing and it makes you wonder why you put yourself through it time after time. Then a case lands on your desk that makes it all worth it.

A case like Jasmine's for instance. Jasmine came to us as a run-of-the-mill court appointment to serve as guardian *ad litem* of a minor. Her case became more complicated after her initial guardian kicked her out and she went to live with a relative in Iowa. That relative needed to get guardianship in order to enroll Jasmine in the Iowa school. **Susan DeCostanza**, a student intern at the time, successfully helped the relative petition for successor guardianship. Then, earlier this year, **Alecia Wartowski** stepped in to help Iowa school officials get Jasmine's records from her Chicago school. After all of the dust settled, we received this letter from Jasmine's school and it reminded us why we keep coming back for more.

"I want to share a bit of positive news to make this holiday season seem a bit brighter and help you realize that your work is worth it. Jasmine won our distinguished student award twice this year. This is a coveted awarded and it is unusual to get it twice. She has been active in community and school activities and has spoken publicly to a large group. She was part of a student task force looking at ways to stop students from dropping out. She was so excited to verbalize her opinions in front of fellow students and offered to write an article for the local newspaper. Her eyes said it all. She knew that she was participating in something important and her opinions counted. She is taking our certified nursing assistant course and it looks certain she will pass with flying colors. She has a wonderful way of interacting with the elderly. This will guarantee her a job. It seems safe to say she has a fighting chance to lead a productive life in spite of her rough beginning and . . . her demeanor is softening some but . . . we will keep working on it. Iowans are a bit more understated than she needed to be to survive in downtown Chicago.

She was quite impressed that you were willing to help her and each week asks me if we have heard from you yet. Your efforts to stabilize her life have contributed to her growth and stability. It seems some Chicago lawyers and advocates have a good heart and care about their kids.

Thank you,
Sue Whitty"

Amicus Poloniae CLE Classes

CVLS' Polish clinic, Amicus Poloniae, offers free CLE to those volunteer attorneys who have attended CVLS' New Volunteer Orientation and agree to stay at the clinic for the morning to help their clients. No need to speak Polish. Space is limited so call **Mark Dobrzycki** at **773.501.0601** to register.

Rich Hanus covers immigration issues and family law.

Immigration law and family law often intertwine. Divorce lawyers need to know how to get or keep clients and their family members in this country, while immigration lawyers need to know the ins and outs of family law practice. Can an immigrant obtain legal status through adoption or guardianship? How can an abused wife protect herself while also avoiding deportation? Does a custody order have any effect in an immigration case, or with a foreign government? Immigration attorney **Richard Hanus** discussed immigration law as it relates to family law issues, including adoption and child custody at the latest CVLS CLE seminar on January 27th. From "green card marriages" to VAWA petitions and foreign adoptions, this program answer a lot of questions for non immigration attorneys and gave them the working knowledge that was needed to represent non US citizens. Great job Richard.

ATG hosts free foreclosure helpline.

With the Midwest's record-high number of foreclosures during 2008, at-risk and worried homeowners could use free, objective legal advice. Volunteer attorneys from Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Inc. (ATG), www.atgf.com, provided free advice to callers during ATG's Foreclosure Helpline (800.252.0402) on Saturday, January 10, 2009. CVLS staff attorney Natalie Weidemier was on site lending a hand.

ATG's Foreclosure Helpline offered callers advice about three crucial areas of concern:

1. What to do if you fall behind in your mortgage payments;
2. Strategies to help defaulting borrowers keep their homes; and
3. How to avoid mortgage rescue and modification scams.

Visit www.atgf.com for information on future ATG events.

February 21st

Real Estate Tax/Zoning
by attorney Mark Kuoiec

March 21st

Mediation
by attorney Anna Krolikowska

April 18th

Landlord-Tenant Law
by attorney Ziggy Sokolnicki

May 16th

Rebuttal-Order of Protection
by attorney L. Steven Rakowski

June 20th

Arbitration
by Chief Clerk Marta Almodovar
Circuit Court Cook Country

Future Clinic Dates

July 18th

August 15th

September 18th

October 17th

November 21st

December 19th



CVLS' Natalie Weidemier poses with other volunteers at ATG's free foreclosure helpline on January 10, 2009.

CVLS Seminar Registration

February and March 2008

February 24 "Preparing 2008 Income Taxes"

by Larry Krupp, C.P.A.

Larry Krupp will interpret and explain the latest version of the tax code. He will discuss changes and concerns that can affect your business, your personal finances and those of your clients.

March 19 "Advanced Care Planning"

by Karen Long

Advance care planning shouldn't simply focus on the selection of an agent and completion of a form Power of Attorney, it should also include a series of discussions about an individual's values and beliefs as they relate to healthcare. The results of those discussions are then developed into an advance care health plan that includes the durable power of attorney for healthcare and is a more effective method for honoring patients' wishes when they no longer are able to make decisions.

Karen Nisley Long, on behalf of the Someone to Trust (STT) Initiative trains healthcare providers, community volunteers, and attorneys to engage individuals in discussions geared to their healthcare status. She will discuss why advance directives currently don't work the way they were intended, the underlying ethical implications, and what needs to be done to make advance directives effective at the bedside. SST, an independent program of the Institute of Medicine-Chicago, is supported by coalition of healthcare organizations, policy-making bodies and community groups.

All seminars are held from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. at 100 North LaSalle, Suite 900.

Archived seminars can be found at www.illinoisprobono.org.

Return to: Seminar Registration, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

100 North LaSalle, Suite 900, Chicago, 60602.2405

FAX:312-332-1460

EMAIL: efranklin@cvls.org

Please Print Your Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____



Funny stuff.

Q: What's wrong with lawyer jokes?

A: Lawyers don't think they're funny, and nobody else thinks they're jokes.

Q: How many lawyer jokes are there?

A. Just two ... all the rest are true.

Q: What is a contingent fee?

A: A contingent fee means, if the lawyer doesn't win your case, he gets nothing. If the lawyer does win it, you get nothing.

Q: What's the difference between a bad lawyer and a good lawyer?

A: A bad lawyer can let a case drag out for several years. A good lawyer can make it last even longer.

Q: How do you get a group of lawyers to smile for a picture?

A. Just say "Fees!"

Q: "I hear you lost your court case. Did your lawyer give you bad advice?"

A. "No. He charged me for it."

Q: Why are lawyers like nuclear weapons?

A. If one side has one, the other side has to get one.

Q: How many accident attorneys does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Three -- one to turn the bulb, one to shake him off the ladder, and the third to sue the ladder company.

Q: What is a jury?

A. A collection of people brought together for the purpose of deciding which side has hired the better lawyer.

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www.californiapersonalinjuryattorneys.us

Fun February Facts

Thomas Edison received his patent for the phonograph,
Feb. 19, 1878

The Battle at the Alamo began, Feb. 23, 1836

Supreme Court overturned United States law for first
time, Feb. 24, 1803

The Panama Canal Commission was founded,
Feb. 29, 1904

Filibuster against Civil Rights began, Feb. 29, 1960

Sudoku!

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8					2		5	
9			8	3				6
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6								3
1			2	8				
2				5	8			1
	6		9					4
		1				7		

Difficulty: Hard



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