



## Client receives payment for destroyed car.

The last thing anyone expects when they walk out to their car is to find it completely demolished. Unfortunately, that's exactly what happened to Nestor on October 15th. Apparently not long before he went to his car a Nissan Altima failed to yield and struck both a motorcyclist and his car. He had a license and liability coverage but that didn't cover the damage done to his car by another driver. He contacted the insurance companies for both Altima and the motorcycle and their response was simple: stop calling. CVLS volunteer **Daniel Connell** of **McKenna Storer** agreed to take the case. With a little litigation she was able to force the insurance companies for both drivers to reimburse Nestor for his totalled car. Now he is able to get to work with no problems. Great work Daniel.

## Introducing Alexandra Cumberland



Congratulations to CVLS Board Member Eliza Cumberland and her husband David on their new baby girl Alexandra (Alexa). She was born on November 29th and weighed 8 pounds. Here Alexa is at 6 weeks staring at the camera with her beautiful baby blues. Isn't she a cutie?

## All's well that ends well.

In 2007 Diamond's teenage mom ran away leaving the 4 year old with her maternal grandmother. CVLS was appointed GAL when the grandmother petitioned for guardianship after Diamond's mom eventually reappeared and was admitted into a psychiatric hospital. Her father initially opposed the guardianship but eventually relented after an agreement was worked out that would allow him weekly visitation. The petition was granted and everything seemed to be working out fine for the next couple of years until the grandmother wanted to move to Delaware with Diamond to be closer to her own mother and sisters in Wilmington. After hearing of this the father petitioned to discharge the guardianship. CVLS deferred attorney **Katie Walton** was assigned the case as GAL for Diamond. She soon discovered that the father had not visited Diamond in over 2 years. When asked why not he said that he could not afford to do so and that he and his wife were already having difficulty affording to raise his other 3 year old girl. Meanwhile, the grandmother went ahead and moved to Delaware and not wanting to violate the court's visitation order with dad she left Diamond with her mother for the time being. Katie didn't think it was a good idea to recommend guardianship for the mother who had not even filed a petition or with the father who admittedly couldn't even afford to visit Diamond much less raise her so she recommended that the grandmother's petition be granted. After 40 minutes of back and forth in front of a judge the court agreed to a hearing and granted the grandmother permission to move Diamond to Delaware pending the hearing. As soon as she sat down to write the order Katie was approached by the father and asked to speak with family out in the hall. It turns out that both parties worked it out amongst themselves. The father agreed to withdraw his petition and the grandmother agreed that Diamond would have extended visitations with the father over summers and holidays. Since the grandmother always agreed to very liberal visitations with the father this was the perfect result. Good job Katie.

## Junior Board member ILAO's Pro Bono Attorney of the Month.



A big congratulations to CVLS Junior Board Director **Jordan Heinz** of **Kirkland & Ellis LLP** for being named Illinois Legal Aid Online's Pro Bono Attorney of the Month for March 2010. Jordan has always been a big believer in pro bono and volunteering his skills to help the less fortunate receive quality legal representation. When he was a law student at University of Pennsylvania Law School Jordan spent his summers working with CVLS first as a Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) intern and then as a fellow. Now in his fifth year as a Kirkland & Ellis LLP associate Jordan continues to stay involved. He currently sits on not only the CVLS Junior Board but also on the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago as a board member, this in addition to being a former board member of PILI. He continues to impress everyone he volunteers with and it is no accident that he adds this very great honor to his long list of achievements such as two CVLS Outstanding Service Award in 2006 and 2008, and two consecutive Kirkland & Ellis Pro Bono Service Awards in 2008 and 2009. He always goes above and beyond what is required and CVLS is very proud of him. Congratulations Jordan.

## Benji Speaks!

The prestigious Chicago-Kent Law School has recently added a local celebrity as their newest adjunct professor for Legal Writing IV for Public Interest Law. This talented individual needs no introduction, but just in case you don't travel in the finest celebrity pro bono circles we'll go ahead and introduce CVLS' very own **Benji Philips**, one of our finest staff attorneys and legal aid extraordinaire. This fiery ball of legal knowledge will be sharing words of wisdom every Tuesday and Thursday with one lucky class of specially selected legal pupils. We were unable to reach her publicist for comment for this article but fellow co-worker Rebekah Rashidfarokhi was found in the hallway outside Benji's office waiting for an autograph. "I always knew she had it in her," says Rebekah. "She's got that gleam in her eye. A look that says 'I'm ready to teach!'. Well done Benji. Well done.



## Long time volunteer appointed associate judge on Tribal Court.



Long time CVLS volunteer and Ojibwe tribe member **Shannon Cobe** was appointed as an associate judge on the Tribal Court of the Lac Du Flambeau reservation on March 1st. She is the only attorney on the reservation to sit on the band's Tribal Court.

Cobe earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and management from DePaul University then went on to The John Marshall Law School at a time when there were fewer than 40 American Indian attorneys in the United States. Since that time she has focussed her career in family law and has been an invaluable resource to CVLS.

As associate judge she will be hearing criminal matters and cases involving divorce, juvenile issues, child welfare and support, paternity, small claims and probate, as well as conservation and natural resources. The tribe is very strict on continuing their traditional ways of harvesting, hunting and fishing.

Returning to the reservation upon her retirement as a sole practitioner has been her goal for quite some time and serving on the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Court is a dream come true. She sees this new appointment as an opportunity to serve the people of her roots, and also as "a wonderful opportunity for learning."

Congratulations Shannon, we wish you well on your new endeavor.

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## Come party with CVLS' Junior Board.

On May 19, 2010, the Junior Board of CVLS will hold its Second Annual Spring Event and we hope you will join us. This Junior Board is committed to attracting new volunteers and raising awareness to the excellent work CVLS does in Chicago's legal community. This year we expect to have over 100 young attorneys and other professionals attend our event celebrating CVLS and the beginning of Spring.

Proceeds from the event will go towards furthering CVLS's core mission of providing quality pro bono legal services to the working poor. The Second Annual Spring Event will be at English Bar and Restaurant, just north of the loop, where we have reserved an entire floor for the evening. We will have music, food and drinks in an atmosphere to mingle with old friends and make new connections.

### Spring Happy Hour With CVLS

Where: English  
444 N. La Salle Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60654

When: May 19th 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Tickets are \$30 each.  
Visit [www.cvl.org/happyhour.html](http://www.cvl.org/happyhour.html) to signup.

## Amicus Poloniae offers MCLE before clinic.

Do you want to kill two birds with one stone? Well now you can. That's right, it's possible to get free MCLE credits and satisfy your ravenous hunger for pro bono at the Amicus Polonia Legal Clinic, held every third Saturday of the month! With a wide range of topics, from preparing for a jury trial, to handling an adult guardianship, these classes are fantastic. All you need to do to attend is agree to stay and volunteer at the legal clinic held immediately after the class. What a deal! For more information on the Amicus Polonia Legal Clinic or their MCLE classes please call Clinic Director **Mark Dobrzycki** at (773) 763-8520.

### MCLE Class Schedule

April 17	Construction Law
Taught by:	Robert Groszek
May 15	Family Law
Taught by:	Anna Krolikowska
June 19	Employment
Taught by:	Alexander Fiedotjew
September 18	Adult Guardianship
Taught by:	Ziggy Sokolnicki
October 16	T.B.A.
Taught by:	Michelle Hendrickson
November 20	T.B.A.
Taught by:	Mark Douglass
December 18	T.B.A.
Taught by:	Tomasz Kaczmarek



(c) Photo by Mark Dobrzycki 2010

## Victory for Tenant in Recovering Security Deposit.

Juan and his family rented an apartment on the north side of Chicago since 2004. Due to an increase in rent, Juan and his family decided to move out of the building, but demanded their security deposit back. After not hearing from the landlord for several months, Juan took it upon himself to file a small claims complaint in the Circuit Court of Cook County. CVLS volunteer **Heidi Schmid** of **Cinnamon Mueller** stepped in to take the case to trial. The unscrupulous landlord filed a counterclaim against Juan's family, anticipating that she would not have to pay the security deposit back to them. Justice prevailed and Juan's family was awarded the security deposit plus interest. The happiest ending came when the landlord paid the entire security deposit, plus interest, to Juan over a period of monthly payments.

# CVLS' Election of Board Members is May 5th.

## Want to be considered? Sign up by April 23rd!

Interested?  
Fax this page to:  
Margaret Benson  
312.332.1460  
by April 23.  
Question:  
Call 312.332.5542  
or email  
mbenson@cvls.org

We are looking for volunteer attorneys, paralegals, interpreters and community hosts to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors. As a board member, you oversee CVLS' programs, administration and development. Meetings usually last about an hour, 6 to 9 times per year, and are held at noon at CVLS' administrative office. Members must contribute financially to the organization and serve on one of the Board's committees:

*Development, Client Services or Endowment*

- I am interested in being considered for a seat on CVLS' Board of Directors.
- I understand that a board term runs for 3 years and that board members must contribute financially to the organization and serve on a committee.
- I understand that CVLS' by-laws require a certain mix of clinic vs. panel referral program volunteers and lawyers vs. non-lawyers. I understand selections may be made based on that.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in serving on the following committees (please check at least one):

Development \_\_\_\_\_ Client Services \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment \_\_\_\_\_



## RACE JUDICATA®

### 2010 5k Run/Walk

chip timed > lakeside > afterparty

**Thursday, July 22nd**

Upper Hutchinson Field  
at Columbus & Balbo

Start Time: Runners 6:30 P.M.  
Walkers 6:45 P.M.

Questions?

(312) 332-3319 or [mnp@cvls.org](mailto:mnp@cvls.org)

**[www.cvls.org/judicata](http://www.cvls.org/judicata)**



## GOLF FORE JUSTICE

Thursday, June 3rd, 2010  
download an entry form at  
**[www.cvls.org/golf](http://www.cvls.org/golf)**

### White Deer Run Golf Club

Vernon Hills  
1:30 p.m. Shotgun

### \$150 Per Person

Includes:  
Deli Lunch, Post-Evening Buffet  
Giveaways & Prizes

For more information call:

**312.332.3528**, or  
email [golf@cvls.org](mailto:golf@cvls.org)

### 2 Person Scramble

Come on out to beat other Chicago law firms in the Law Firm competition. Join these firms, already committed, vying to become the city's best and have its name added to the CVLS Golf Fore Justice Traveling Trophy while raising money for CVLS: *McDermott Will & Emery; Mayer Brown; Drinker Biddle & Reath; Bell Boyd & Lloyd; Swanson Martin & Bell*; and more!

# **CVLS Seminar Registration**

**April - May**

**April 21 "Dealing With Children Who Have Been Exposed to Violence" by Mark Parr**

**May 19 "Mental Health Records Confidentiality Act " by Joe Monahan**

**June 9 "Working With Clients That Have Addictions" by Marry Hasse and Roseann Rook**

*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](http://www.illinoisprobono.org).*

Return to: Seminar Registration, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services  
100 North LaSalle, Suite 900, Chicago, 60602.2405  
FAX:312-332-1460  
EMAIL: [jengle@cvls.org](mailto:jengle@cvls.org)

Please Print Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



## Community Responses

Dear Mrs. Benson,

I would like to commend you on the great service that Chicago Volunteer Legal Services provided in helping with the process of gaining legal custody of my grandson Keon Green. It is with great appreciation for the transition to be quick and easy. I would also like to extend great thanks to **Mr. Dave White**. His is a sincere and knowledgeable person. I would recommend you to anyone who doesn't know how to go about this process.

Sincerely, God bless you  
Mr. K Green

Dear Peter [Ashmore],

Thank you for speaking at our NAMI affiliate meeting on Oak Park last month. Your talk about guardianship was very informative. A lot of questions were answered on this issue. It's reassuring for families of relatives with mental illness that there are organizations like yours that advocate for our loved ones.

Sincerely,  
R Leehey  
Metro Chicago  
NAMI affiliate

## Random Fun Facts

- General Hospital premiered on ABC-TV, April 1, 1963
- American Indian Pocahontas married English colonist John Rolfe in Virginia, April 5, 1614
- The first patent law was passed, April 10, 1790
- First motion picture public showing, April 14, 1894
- John T. Scopes was arrested in Tennessee for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution, May 5, 1925
- United States Customs Court created, May 28, 1926

## Sudoku!

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

Difficulty: Medium

**CHICAGO  
VOLUNTEER  
LEGAL  
SERVICES**

100 North LaSalle Street, Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60602

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