

Mark Your Calendars Now!



9/15
Board Meeting
CVLS office
Noon

9/22
Seminar: Estate
Administration
by Steve Raminiak
CVLS office
12:15 PM

10/6
New Volunteer
Orientation
CVLS office
Noon

10/20
Board Meeting
CVLS office
Noon

10/27
Seminar: Litigation
Practice in Domestic
Relations Court
By Laura Ashmore
CVLS office
12:15 PM

11/10
Annual Award
Ceremony
Kirkland & Ellis
5:30 PM

11/12
Vino & Van Gogh
Gallery KH
7:00 PM



Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events

Murder, money and mayhem.

D was convicted and sentenced to prison for murder after his long time girlfriend told the police where to find the body and served as star witness at the trial. As he sat in prison, D came up with a way to use the legal system to exact revenge. He hired an attorney and sued her. As a free man, D had used his girlfriend's account to deposit checks. Although she'd given him back all of his money after they broke up, D's lawsuit accused her of withholding \$36,000. When she was hit with the lawsuit, she was terrified because she could not afford an attorney and had no idea how to fight the case. Working by day and attending college at night, she needed help. Luckily, she found CVLS where **Jed Rosenkrantz**, a **Sidley Austin** deferred associate, was more than happy to represent her. D's attorney, naive at best, tried to breeze through the case, apparently convinced that it was an open and shut contract action. At the first court hearing, he told the judge that the case was a no-brainer and asked for a pretrial conference to settle it. Jed argued that there was, in fact, a substantive defense and asked for time to develop it through discovery. The judge allowed it and Jed sent out interrogatories and document production requests. After a thorough investigation, reading through the criminal trial testimony, sifting through everyone's financial records and extensive legal research, Jed prepared a detailed answer with an exhaustive list of affirmative defenses, ranging from established legal principles to nuanced public policy arguments. The comprehensive response presented an overwhelming argument in our client's favor and convinced opposing counsel to voluntarily dismiss the case with prejudice. With the lawsuit dropped, our client was able to put this nasty chapter of her life to rest once and for all and move on with her life.

It was a bank robbery.

Kris moved into his uncle's building after his uncle fell ill. Although Kris always paid his rent on time, the uncle couldn't keep up his mortgage payments and the bank filed to foreclose. Kris discovered the foreclosure when he came home one day to find the doors to the building padlocked and the windows boarded. Once Kris got inside, he discovered that his computer, tools, and even the kitchen sink, were missing. It turns out that the bank had jumped the gun, boarding up the property while the foreclosure case was pending and Kris' uncle still had a right to redeem. The Honorable Lisa Curcio appointed CVLS under the Access to Justice Program. CVLS volunteer **Adam Goodman** filed a counterclaim against the bank and won \$11,000 so that our client can replace all of his missing property.

The newest member of CVLS' family.



Congratulations to CVLS' deferred Sidley Austin attorney Joseph Carder and his wife Cassie on their new baby boy Stephen. Born July 17th, Stephen has already expressed interest in following in his dad's footsteps as a great litigator. Pictured here, Stephen is practicing his courtroom face. Congratulations Joe and Cassie!

CVLS hosts delegation from China.



On August 13, Margaret Benson, Executive Director, and Michael Edelberg, Interim Clinic Coordinator of CVLS hosted a delegation of legal aid attorneys from the Ministry of Justice of the Peoples Republic of China. The group of delegates is affiliated with the China Executive Leadership Program (CELP) from the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. Susan Trippiedi, Director of CELP, accompanied the 20 legal aid representatives who came from from all over China. It's fascinating to know that similarities exist between legal service providers around the world. The delegates, Margaret and Michael discussed familiar cases types and common problems (funding!). Margaret and Michael thoroughly enjoyed the brief symposium and were thrilled to extend CVLS' hospitality and vision of pro bono across cultural and geographic boundaries.

Beyond ThunderDome!

It started with an idea. An innocent thought, casually shared with peers in a living room in Winnetka. Slowly it grew, nurtured along by the hopes and dreams of those who could give it life. With that, ThunderDome was born. Suddenly, young attorneys, straight out of law school, had somewhere to go where they could volunteer and learn, as a group, how to handle simple divorce cases. It was revolutionary. In ThunderDome, novices enter, veterans leave.

As with all great concepts with great titles, a sequel was destined. Permit us to introduce to you the next great adventure, Beyond ThunderDome. In Beyond ThunderDome, eight attorneys, veterans of the original ThunderDome clinic, continue their quest to learn and conquer ever more complex divorce cases. Like its predecessor, Beyond ThunderDome combines monthly classroom training with hands-on practice, designed to give attorneys the support and experience they need to handle new types of cases, in a communal, relaxed atmosphere. Thanks to the guidance of Phil Mohr, CVLS' deputy director and director of family law, initial reviews of the clinic have been very positive.

CVLS will be starting a new round of ThunderDome this winter. If you are interested in participating, please contact Phil Mohr at pjm@cvls.org.

CVLS helps with landlord-tenant dispute.

Hazel owns a two unit building, living in one unit while renting out the other. Her problems began when a tenant moved in with three children, stopped paying rent after the first month and then moved in several additional adults. Hazel served the tenant with an eviction notice for non payment of rent. Quick to the punch, the tenant got a lawyer who filed a counterclaim for breach of habitability.

In over her head, Hazel turned to CVLS for help. Volunteer attorney **Jonathan Pfleeger** of **Skadden Arps** negotiated with the tenant's attorney and, in the end, the tenant withdrew her claims against Hazel and forfeited her security deposit. In exchange for the tenant moving out, Hazel agreed to withdraw her action for possession of the property.

"Mr. Pfleeger was a great attorney and with his help the case finally ended. We could not have achieved a positive outcome without his help. Thank you." - Hazel

They will call him Jason.



Guardian ad litem volunteer Laverne Hill, and her husband Tory Horton, are the proud new parents of this beautiful baby boy, Jason Carl Horton. On June 23 at 8:48 P.M. a 5 pound 10 ounce bundle of joy entered their lives and they couldn't be happier. Congratulations you two.

CVLS Seminar Registration

September - October

September 22 "Estate Administration" **by Steve Raminiak, of Deutsch, Levy & Engel, Chartered**

Please join us as CVLS Volunteer Steve Raminiak, of Deutsch, Levy & Engel, Chartered presents a comprehensive look at decedents' estate administration in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Steve concentrates his practice in estate planning as well as the administration of estates and trusts established for decedents, minors and disabled persons.

October 27 "Litigation Practice in Domestic Relations Court" **by Laura Ashmore of Lake Toback**

The Domestic Relations Division offers attorneys some of the most frequent and most interesting litigation opportunities in the Daley Center. Every day, judges hold contested hearings, some lasting for days, and adjudicate tussles over witness lists, experts, discovery and other litigation essentials. If you are looking for the chance to hone your litigation skills, whether for the first time or after years of practice, the Domestic Relations Division is a perfect arena. Laura Ashmore, of Lake Toback, and a veteran of this practice, will discuss litigation as it applies to Domestic Relations cases. She will include general litigation techniques as well as specific strategies and issues common to this arena.

Please visit www.cvls.org/seminars to register.

*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.*

Mary Anne Smith wins CBF award.



Congratulations to CVLS volunteer **Mary Anne Smith** for being awarded the Exelon Outstanding Corporate Counsel Award at the Chicago Bar Foundation's annual awards luncheon. Mary Anne, who has provided free legal services to low-income clients for more than 30 years, founded CVLS' Visitation Church Legal Clinic and has been the clinic chair for its entire 22 year history. Thousands of Chicago residents have been helped by Mary Anne's efforts, confirming that she is one of the city's true heroes. Thank you Mary Anne for your compassion for the less fortunate and your dedication to advancing the cause of justice.

Please remember to donate.

CVLS continues to provide free legal services to low income Chicagoans each year thanks to volunteers and friends like you. Your contributions are very important and necessary for us to continue to be the leading pro bono organization in Chicago. If you would like to donate please visit www.cvls.org/donate. You can donate using the traditional method or by giving a small amount each month using our new subscription feature. Thank you in advance for your support.

CVLS Apna Ghar Family Law Clinic.

Volunteer **Sahar Dar, Schiff Hardin LLP**, has a strong professional interest in helping victims of domestic violence resolve their family law needs. A board member of Apna Ghar, a north side domestic violence shelter, and a CVLS volunteer, Sahar enlisted the support of the Pakistani American Bar Association, and members of several other Asian bar associations, to create the new CVLS Apna Ghar Family Law Clinic. CVLS family law director Phil Mohr is helping to train new volunteers in domestic violence, divorce and other family law, and the clinic is expected to open for business in late September. If you are interested in helping to meet this significant need, contact CVLS' Interim Clinic Coordinator Michael Edelberg at medelberg@cvls.org.

Save the date!

Ladies and gentlemen we would like to cordially invite you to the hottest event this fall. By now you have probably already figured it out, but the event we refer to is of course Chicago Volunteer Legal Services' Annual Award Ceremony on November 10. Kirkland & Ellis LLP has generously offered to host the event this year at their new offices located at 300 North LaSalle. Doors open at 5:30 PM so don't miss your chance to attend one of the most prestigious events of the year. Past attendees of the event have included the creme de la creme of Chicago's legal aid world, such as the fabulous Margaret Benson, and the debonair Phillip Mohr. Rumors have it that even Mr. Eric Donahue himself will be in attendance this year. Don't miss out. Mark it on your calendars today.

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