

## Mark Your Calendars Now!

**8/31**

Deadline for Race  
Judicata Team Tent  
Rentals

**9/12**

Race Judicata Packet  
Pickup  
CVLS Offices  
11 AM to 6:45 PM

**9/13**

Race Judicata 2012  
Upper Hutchinson  
Field  
6:30 PM

**9/27**

Seminar: Changes  
to the Foreclosure  
Mediation Program"  
by Patricia Nelson  
CVLS Offices  
12:15 PM

**11/13**

Seminar: Defenses  
to Credit Card  
Collections"  
by Ed Halper  
CVLS Offices  
12:15 PM

**Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events**

## Driven to unemployment.

Eugene, a long time driving instructor at a north shore high school, was known as a strict teacher. He did not want his less-attentive students wielding a 2000 pound weapon on the roads and would, on occasion, flunk one who clearly should not be driving. Unfortunately, not all of the parents appreciated his standards. After one particularly irate set of parents complained, demanding Eugene's dismissal, (clearly missing the point of driver's education is to produce competent and responsible drivers), the school terminated Eugene without discussion.

When Eugene applied for unemployment compensation, he was denied because of claims against him made by the school. Eugene appealed the denial and sought help at CVLS' JUF Community Legal Services Program where he was put in touch with employment attorney **Alan Satyr**. Alan represented Eugene at the hearing, clarifying, through questions and argument, the circumstances surrounding the dismissal. A few months later, an excited Eugene called the clinic coordinator, Sima Blue to let her know that he was receiving his unemployment benefits. Thanks to Alan's skilled assistance, our client was validated.

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## CVLS contacted about contract.

Sorel, who teaches English as a second language, had a teaching contract with a company based in Australia. Although everything went smoothly for several months, as the number of students dwindled, the company decided to discontinue the program. Unfortunately, Sorel's contract did not specify what would happen in the event of a shrinking number of students and the loss of income would seriously impact her life. Longtime volunteer attorney, **Marc Primack** met with the client and informed her that, while any action against a foreign country would be an uphill battle, he was willing to try his best for her.

However, after months of negotiations, and beyond either Marc's or the client's original expectations, the company relented and paid Sorel the balance of the contract. Needless to say, the client was relieved to see the funds she so sorely needed and Marc is now her hero.

## Congratulations Susan!



*Susan receiving the award from Luncheon Co-Chair, Barrington Lopez*

Congratulations to our very own **Susan DeCostanza** for being honored with the Kimball R. Anderson and Karen Gatsis Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship at The Chicago Bar Association and Chicago Bar Foundation 14th annual Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Luncheon! Way to fight for equal access to justice!!!

Susan's commitment to public service and passion for helping children began long before she attended law school. After graduating from Boston College, Susan spent two years volunteering in Peru, where she created and implemented a literacy program for women and children and taught a class for youth. Upon returning to Chicago, Susan devoted nearly two years to teaching at a Chicago Public School elementary school. Her unwavering commitment to public service continued while at DePaul University College of Law, where she co-founded DePaul's innovative Journal for Social Justice, served as DePaul's Career Services Public Interest Coordinator, and sought out summer internships at legal aid organizations, including CVLS.

For more information about Susan for the Kimball R. Anderson and Karen Gatsis Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship award visit [www.cvls.org/news](http://www.cvls.org/news).

## Babies.



*Gabriel Michael DeCostanza*

And speaking of congratulations to Susan, they go to that very same Susan DeCostanza, her husband John, big sister Lina and big brother Luke on the birth of baby boy Gabriel. Gabriel was born with fireworks on July 4th, coming in at tidy 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 20.25 inches long. The family is doing great and thanks everybody for all of the well wishes.



*Owen Zwaska*

Dave Zwaska, former CVLS intern, and his wife Laurie recently gave birth to their new bundle of joy, Owen. Owen was born on June 11th weighing 8 lbs. 15 oz. and measuring 21 inches long. He's already got a fantastic head of hair and everyone is excited to finally have him as part of the family.

# CVLS Honor Roll



*George Peter Alex, Amicus Poloniae*

A great volunteer at CVLS' Polish clinic Amicus Poloniae, George has helped a lot of clients including people worried about losing their homes in foreclosure. In one notable case, not only did he convince the bank to modify a homeowner's loan, he went on to help him resolve outstanding medical bills and other debts. Thanks to George, his client is able to stay in the property with an affordable mortgage payment while recovering from cancer. George did much of this work from Houston Texas after he moved there for a new job as a tax attorney.



*E. Sylvia May, Schiff Hardin LLP/HOW, Inc. Legal Clinic*

Sylvia is a born volunteer, carefully and patiently conducting the initial intake interview for every person who comes into the busy Schiff Hardin / HOW clinic. In addition to her tremendous direct work with clients, countless attorneys rely on her for advice about the practicalities of getting the clinic sessions up and running. The clinic truly couldn't run without her.



*Chantal Blackmore, Office of Chief Judge, Probate Division, Circuit Court of Cook County*

Chantal has worked as the Probate Division's Administrative Assistant and the right-hand of the Presiding Judge since she began her career with the Office of the Chief Judge 23 years ago. Working at the same desk, in the same chair, with the same telephone number through the tenures of Presiding Judges Novoselski, Budzinski and, now, Coghlan, Chantal does administrative work for the Presiding Judge and all 12 Probate Judges, including scheduling, typing opinions, payroll, transferring files and helping the special administrators appointed in decedents estates. In addition, she makes CVLS' job much easier by coordinating all of the Adult GAL assignments from each of the Disabled Adult Guardianship judges and serving as CVLS' point person for administrative issues with the program. CVLS honors and thanks Chantal for her contribution to CVLS' Adult GAL Program.



[www.cvl.org/judicata](http://www.cvl.org/judicata)

CHICAGO  
VOLUNTEER  
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# SEPTEMBER 13th, 2012

## Lakeside Run & Afterparty

Upper Hutchinson Field  
Live music, free food & drinks  
\*Proper ID must be shown  
to receive wristbands

\$33 early registration before Sep. 8,  
\$38 Sep. 8 - 13

### Online registration available!



Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity.





# RACE JUDICATA® 2012

**Sprint for Justice**  
Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>



## Volunteer Sign-up Form

This is a terrific way to enjoy the race and support Race Judicata® 2012. All volunteers receive a volunteer t-shirt and goody bag. There are 4 starting times (4:00, 5:15, 5:45 and 6:30 pm)—although we cannot guarantee specific assignments, we will do our best to accommodate your preference. You will be notified of your assignment when you check in on race day.

### REGISTRATION/PACKET PICKUP

15 Volunteers Needed

Sign people up for the race, take in money, hand out race numbers, t-shirts & goody bags or distribute electronic timing chips.

**Start:** 4:00 pm

**End:** 6:45 pm

### GEAR CHECK

30 Volunteers Needed

The first shift checks-in jackets, bags, laptops, etc and the second shift returns checked items.

**Start:** 4:00/6:30 pm

**End:** 6:30/8:00 pm

### COURSE MARSHALS

25 Volunteers Needed

Monitor the course to ensure that people don't run or walk the wrong way (yes, it happens!).

**Start:** 5:15 pm

**End:** 7:30 pm

### WATER

40 Volunteers Needed

Hand out water on the course or at the finish line.

**Start:** 5:45 pm

**End:** 7:30 pm

### YES! I want to volunteer at Race Judicata ® 2012!

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

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

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Time (Circle one): 4:00                      5:15                      5:45                      6:30

Return to CVLS by:

Mail: 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60602-2405

Fax: 312.332.1460

Email: [apatel@cvls.org](mailto:apatel@cvls.org)

T-shirt Size (Circle one):      SM                      MED                      LRG                      X-LRG

**Questions? Please call Avani Patel at 312-332-0026 or [apatel@cvls.org](mailto:apatel@cvls.org)**

# CVLS Seminar Registration

## **September 27 "Changes in the Foreclosure Mediation Program" by Patricia Nelson**

The Cook County Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program is two years underway. Lots of lessons have been learned by the Court and by CVLS. There have been huge changes to the program in the recent months. Don't be caught off guard, come learn what to expect from all the new changes.

## **November 13 "Defenses to Credit Card Collections" by Ed Halper**

CVLS sees significant numbers of clients trying to fend off collection actions by credit card companies. The collection of credit card debt results in long-standing but often ignored defenses. When credit card debt is sold that creates new and additional defenses and strategies for fighting these collection claims. Edward J. Halper and Rachel Schaller raise procedural and substantive defenses in the July Illinois Bar Journal and now Ed, a long-time CVLS volunteer, will discuss them with you.

Please visit [www.cvls.org/seminars](http://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 [cvls.org/archived-seminars](http://cvls.org/archived-seminars).*

## Grieving grandparents couldn't let go.

Just 15 years old when her mom died, Kristi wanted to stay with her mother's family, even though her father wanted her to come live with him. Respecting Kristi's need to grieve, the dad gave the maternal grandparents guardianship through an agreed order that gave him visitation and a gradual transition into his full time care. Unfortunately, after realizing that the grandparents had no intention of supporting his relationship with Kristi, the dad petitioned to discharge the grandparents as guardians. The grandparents objected and CVLS was appointed Kristi's Guardian ad litem.

Volunteer GAL **Kali Plomin** soon realized that the grandparents were not meeting Kristi's needs. Kristi was sleeping on the couch, because her bedroom was so full of the mother's belongings that no one could enter it, much less access the bed. Despite frequent reminders from Kali, the grandparents did not address Kristi's medical issues or grief over the loss of her mother. When Kali asked about Kristi's threats to take her own life, the grandfather responded that "he doesn't get involved in female problems." While Kristi's grandparents seemed to sincerely love Kristi, they were simply unable to give the child what she needed for healthy development.

On the other hand, the father and his wife, arranged for counseling for Kristi, paid medical bills and tried to spend as much time with Kristi as possible. He also worked to support Kristi's relationship with her grandparents, despite the fact that they continually lied to her about him, telling her that he was addicted to drugs and alcohol. Kristi told Kali that while her relationship with her Father was not perfect, her stepmother was one of the few people that Kristi felt she could really talk to.

At trial, Kali strongly recommended that the guardianship be terminated. The judge followed that recommendation and granted the dad's Petition to Discharge the Guardians. Father and Stepmother were overjoyed that after working hard for 2 years, they would finally be able to bring Kristi fully into their family. While the transition has not been easy, Kristi's future looks promising, thanks to Kali's hard work.

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## Post-divorce custody battle lingers to long.

Although newly divorced Valerie was awarded custody of her child in a contested case, things stretched on thanks to an appeal and multiple post-decree brought by her ex-husband, trying to either re-litigate or constantly modify the custody provisions. Valerie, tired and no longer able to afford counsel, sought pro bono help from CVLS. Volunteer **Gregory Maksimuk** from **Schiller DuCanto & Fleck** stepped forward to try to wrap things up for Valerie. He did. With well plead motions and great lawyering, Greg convinced the court to dismiss all of the father's petitions and provided Valerie with some stability. Valerie's custody judgment is secure and she can move forward with confidence.

# Now's your chance to register for Race Judicata® 2012!

Heat wave after heat wave can mean only one thing, summer. With summer comes one of the greatest, life changing, exhilarating events of the year!

That's right ladies and gentlemen; the summer's biggest romp for attorneys, friends of attorneys and sports enthusiasts is little more than one month away! Race Judicata® 2012 takes place on September 13th at Upper Hutchinson field at the corner of Columbus and Balbo.

Register before September 7th and receive the discounted rate of \$33. After that date, registration goes to \$38 through to race day. Don't delay. Register now for the best 5K in Chicago.

We know that a 5K is not for everyone. If you fall into this category and still want to participate, we would love to have you volunteer! We always have a need for volunteers to help with registration, water, course marshals and the many other aspects that make Race Judicata® run (pun intended). With a lot of time slots available, we can fit everyone's schedule. If you would like to volunteer for Race Judicata® please contact **Avani Patel** at [apatel@cvls.org](mailto:apatel@cvls.org) or **312-332-0026**.

For more information about Race Judicata or to register online visit:

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

## Important Update:

CVLS Volunteers:

Please note that the filing fee for chapter 7 bankruptcies is now \$306.00. Remember to make sure this is the amount you collect from clients who are not eligible for a fee waiver.

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## Why we help.

The Chicago Law Bulletin recently asked pro bono attorneys to find out what made them tick. Here's what one CVLS volunteer had to say:

"I like volunteering for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. It is a great way to learn a new area of law, and the staff at CVLS is great to work with. Best of all, you get to help the underserved population of Chicago."

Kristen E. Hudson  
Schopf and Weiss LLP

Why do you volunteer? What was your reason for jumping into the pro bono world? Send us your answers at [mnp@cvls.org](mailto:mnp@cvls.org) and help us convince more attorneys to use their talents for Chicago's most vulnerable citizens.

**CHICAGO  
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100 North LaSalle Street, Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60602

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