

Volunteer Spotlight!

When volunteer **Laura Amend** isn't at the CVLS office processing intake forms, she enjoys a career as a classically trained singer!

Laura has been working in the music industry for over 30 years, most recently with the Grant Park Music Festival, singing in the chorus for the concert series in Millennium Park. She has been involved with Music of the Baroque, one of the area's top classical groups, for 14 years, and has spent about 17 years singing in church events. Laura says she enjoyed singing in churches because it gave her a chance to see and perform in beautiful spaces all around Chicago.

With a background in choruses, chamber groups and even oratorio (which is a soloist involved in a bigger musical production like Handel's Messiah), Laura has also worked in musical recording and as a singing instructor at Columbia College Chicago. No matter the venue, however, she says the important thing is to sing the music well, because there is always someone who will enjoy it.

In addition to music, Laura was interested in the law. As a result, she attended Roosevelt University's paralegal program in 2006. Recently, she was interested in volunteer opportunities to use her paralegal skills.

In May of 2013 Laura found CVLS, and now comes in a couple days a week, volunteering for a few hours each day doing intake work. She helps enter the intake information into the CVLS database, and enjoys it because it's not just "crunching numbers," the information all makes sense on a larger scale.

We're so grateful for the amazing work Laura does, and proud of her accomplishments as a singer! Thank you, Laura!

Volunteer Honor Roll



Jane Addams Hull House volunteer **Sandy Morris'** bubbly, feisty and all around wonderful personality makes her an enthusiastic and reliable clinic volunteer. She takes more than her fair share of cases, devoting her time and energy to people who need her strength and appreciate her legal talent.

She is truly a linchpin of the Jane Addams clinic.

A skilled litigator, **Andy Miller** is dedicated to ensuring access to justice to Chicago's underserved communities. That amazing dedication is demonstrated by the quality of his pro bono work at CVLS' **St. Procopius Legal Clinic** in Pilsen.

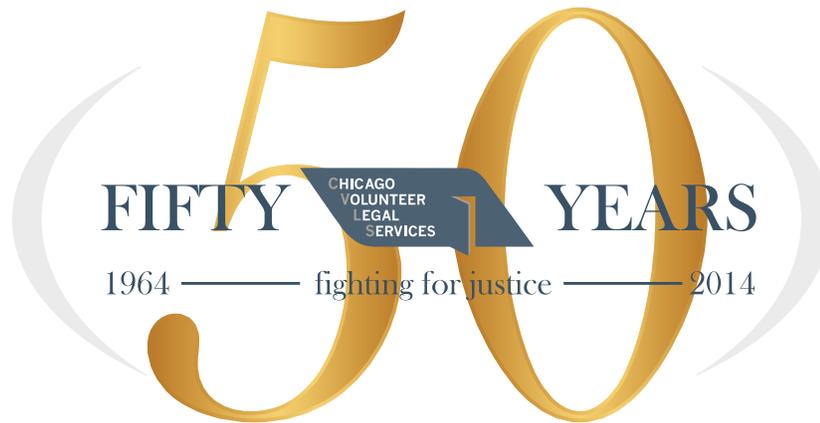


First as a summer associate, then as an associate, and now as a partner, **Paul Greenwalt** has maintained his commitment to the **Schiff Hardin CVLS Clinic** for more than twenty years. Advocating for countless CVLS clients, Paul has also served tirelessly as a clinic administrator, organizing and encouraging other volunteers. Always an active volunteer, Paul also serves as an invaluable resource for new Schiff Hardin attorneys working on CVLS cases.



Learn more about volunteering with CVLS!
Visit cvls.org/volunteer

50 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR EQUAL JUSTICE



Announcing ... Second City at our 50th Anniversary Gala!



In addition to comedian Pat McGann as the emcee for our birthday gala in October, we are pleased to announce an ensemble from the **Second City** will perform an improv sketch show!

The Second City opened its doors in 1959, beginning as an experimental and unconventional approach to comedy and growing into an influential and prolific theater.

Learn more by visiting the Second City's website: <http://www.secondcity.com/>

For more information on the gala and our 50th anniversary, visit:

cvls.org/50years

Help Us Celebrate CVLS' 50th Birthday!

We're celebrating CVLS' 50th birthday in October, and it'll be a swanky affair - but you can help us make it even better!

When was the last time you drank a Marilyn Monroe or a Tom Collins? Embrace your inner Mad Man at our open bar with 60s-inspired cocktails! We'll also have hors d'oeuvres, a buffet and desserts straight out of the To Kill a Mockingbird era.

But this celebration isn't just for us, it's for you, the modern day activists who help those in need every day by supporting CVLS! We'll have a silent auction, raffle and awards ceremony to thank you for everything you do.

Sponsorships range from \$2,500-\$10,000. You'll receive benefits fit for a Kennedy including tickets, reserved table, prime ad book space, website listings, and online and print marketing! For more information on sponsorships, contact Phil Mohr at philmoehr@cvls.org.

Save the date: October 30, 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center. Be there or be square!

CVLS Staffer Dan is now Clinic Coordinator!



Daniel Santrella, previously Volunteer Coordinator for our foreclosure mediation program is now our Clinic Coordinator, overseeing operations for CVLS' 22 clinics.

Dan started at CVLS in 2008 as a part-time administrative assistant in the Chancery Court Access to Justice Program. His hours and responsibilities expanded when CVLS began the foreclosure mediation program.

Never fear - In addition to taking on this new role, Dan will remain in charge of the high-striker at Race Judicata.

CVLS new Volunteer Coordinator for our foreclosure mediation program is Sarah Hollibaugh. Welcome to CVLS, Sarah!

New Adoption Training Videos Available Online

We're pleased to offer a series of resources on Adoption, including training videos, manuals, downloads, forms and templates.

From "Intro to Adoption" through Post Judgment, CVLS Deputy Director **Phil Mohr's** instructional videos cover the entire process of an Adoption case. Any document described in the training videos can be found and downloaded on the page.

All the resources are now available at <http://cvls.org/training-adoption>

Congratulations to new parents Ryanne & Jeff!

Congratulations to the Chicago Bar Foundation's Director of Grants, **Ryanne Easley**, and her husband, Jeff Perconte, on the birth of their baby boy! Grant Michael Perconte was born on January 11, his due date, at 8:45 a.m. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was "21 inches of awesome." Jeff says Grant and his mom are both doing great.



Kudos to Ian!

CVLS Staff Attorney **Ian Turnipseed** has been working with Mrs. Chambers on her foreclosure case. Recently she sent treats to our offices to thank Ian! She said, "I am grateful for CVLS and may God bless us all."

Thank you to Mrs. Chambers for your thoughtful gesture, and to Ian for your great work on her case!



Thank You to Volunteer Maria for Helping Out with Minor GAL



While CVLS' Minor GAL Director Rebekah Rashidfarokhi was on maternity leave, volunteer **Maria Petrone** filled in.

Maria has been a devoted volunteer attorney since 2009, and has worked both as a panel volunteer and with our Thunderdome Divorce Clinic. She is also currently a freelance writer for the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.

Thank you Maria for all your amazing work!

New Automatic Court Fee Waivers Available

Last year, the Governor signed the Access to Justice Act, amending 735 ILCS 5/5-105.5 to allow fee waivers for any client determined eligible for representation by a civil legal service provider, not just those who meet the 125% of Federal Poverty Limit income threshold. The statute also extends this to court-sponsored pro bono programs.

A rule to establish a standardized statewide form is currently pending before the Supreme Court. CVLS and Illinois Legal Aid Online helped the Chicago Bar Foundation create and automate new fee waiver forms to comply with the proposed Supreme Court Rule.

The form templates, for Adoption, Domestic Relations, Probate - Adult Guardianship, Probate - Minor Guardianship, Chancery and Municipal 1st District are available through Legal Server and from CVLS staff attorneys by request.

Volunteer's advice leads to successful sale

Peter ran a successful landscaping business for years. Sadly, in the summer of 2011, his tools were stolen during his most lucrative time of year. This crisis was exacerbated when he fell seriously ill for several months and he could not afford to purchase replacement equipment. As a result, he fell behind in his mortgage payments.

Volunteer Attorney **Bernard Wolfe** represented Peter in his efforts to obtain a loan modification. Based on Attorney Wolfe's counsel, Peter concluded that modifying his loan in light of his property value did not make sense for his family. Attorney Wolfe discussed the pros and cons of allowing the foreclosure to run its course, and the various dignified exit options, including short sale.

Peter elected to pursue a short sale and the lender has indicated that they will waive their right to seek a personal deficiency. Thank you to **Bernard** for your counsel!

Committed Carpenter Keeps her Home

Genny was a union carpenter for years before being laid off in 2008. For a while, she didn't qualify for a modification of her mortgage because, with only temporary work, she could not demonstrate consistency in her income. However, once she found a full-time union carpentry position, her CVLS volunteer, **Mark Laws**, helped her negotiate a permanent modification that yielded an affordable monthly mortgage payment.

Mark's steadfast commitment to Genny's case, coupled with Genny's single-minded determination, resulted in a saved home. Well done!

CVLS Volunteers go Above and Beyond!

Many thanks to volunteer attorney **Ashaki Sailor**, for helping so many homeowners through the foreclosure mediation program!

Although many of her clients were not able to keep their homes, they walked away understanding their options and the process. Ashaki worked with them every step of the way and helped them make decisions that were best for them and their families. She works hard for her clients and she cares. They notice and appreciate it.

Special thanks to Ashaki Sailor for her steadfast commitment to CVLS clients and the foreclosure mediation program!

Thank You J. Jeltès!

Thank you to the Law Offices of J. Jeltès, Ltd. for donating to CVLS 100% of commissions she will receive on sales of Cook County Court Judge Michele Lowrance's recent book, *The Good Karma Divorce*, offered through her website!

The book offers help on how to "avoid litigation, turn negative emotions into positive actions, and get on with the rest of your life."

Founding attorney Jenny Jeltès' areas of focus include Divorce and Family Law, Probate and Guardianship, and Adoption.

She has been an active CVLS volunteer attorney since 2010, working on Guardian ad Litem and Adoption cases.

Purchase your copy of *The Good Karma Divorce* at <http://amzn.to/1c1446X>

Learn more about the Law Offices of J. Jeltès at <http://jeltèslaw.com/>

Three Generations get to Stay in their Home

CVLS 711 Volunteer **Kasia Kaczmarczyk** represented CVLS client Reyna Kelly, a retired grandmother, in the mortgage foreclosure mediation program, and was able to secure a modification of her mortgage.

Reyna was able to keep her condo, where she lives with her daughter and two grandchildren. Thanks to Kat, Reyna's entire family got to stay in their home.

Volunteer Ensures Dignified, Debt-Free Exit

Volunteer Attorney **Barbara Snider** went above and beyond the call of duty to help Sally Renter negotiate a dignified exit from her home.

When her case was sent to the foreclosure mediation program, Sally was not sure what to do because her home was worth much less than what she owed the bank.

Barbara worked tirelessly to help Sally explore all of her options and determine the best course of action, going to Sally's home in person on several occasions to collect documents needed for negotiations with the bank, as Sally did not have ready access to a fax machine or a scanner.

Ultimately, Barbara saw Sally all the way through a Consent Judgment, which ensured that Sally could move out of her condo without any remaining debt to the bank.

Appellate Filing Fees to Double

The Illinois Supreme Court issued amended Rule 313 on Monday, January 23, doubling filing fees in appellate cases. The fee for appellants and petitioners will be \$50 and the fee for all other parties will be \$30. The change takes effect January 1, 2015.

Upcoming CVLS Events

March 6

April 3

**New Volunteer Orientation
by CVLS Staff**

CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

Why volunteer? Your law license gives you the key to our legal system. Volunteering lets you unlock and open the door for society's most vulnerable people. At CVLS, you use your skills and talents to help low income individuals with legal problems. Equal justice is everyone's fight.

Please visit www.cvl.org/volunteer to register

March 11

GAL for Minors Training

by Susan DeCostanza, CVLS Staff Attorney

CVLS Offices, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Learn to represent the best interests of society's most vulnerable citizens in Probate Court! Susan DeCostanza will cover the skills required for be a successful GAL for a minor as well as the issues that may come up during the case. This training is for new GALs working with CVLS.

March 20

Seminar: Transgender Law

Owen Daniel-McCarter, Translife Center at Chicago House

CVLS Offices, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Transgender law is a new and burgeoning area of practice. Owen Daniel-McCarter, Legal Director and Staff Attorney for the Translife Center at Chicago House, a social service agency that serves individuals and families disenfranchised by HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ marginalization, poverty, homelessness, and/or gender nonconformity, will discuss issues facing this community and the law and policies that govern them.

His program will include information on the process of changing ones name and gender, the rights of transgender detainees, special issues related to family law, transgender advocacy and much, much more.

Please visit www.cvl.org/seminars to register

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