

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Erich Pavel, Adult GAL

Adult GAL and Guardianship volunteer **Erich Pavel's** Probate work began long before his relationship with CVLS.

As an attorney with the UAW Legal Services Plan, his practice area included representing petitioners in guardianship cases for minors and disabled adults. When he started his own firm, he began serving as a GAL in these types of cases.

He enjoys the atmosphere on Probate's 18th floor, with its "friendly group" of people he's gotten to know over the years. "It's a nice floor to work on," Eric says of his time working and volunteering on adult guardianship and GAL cases.

Erich, who has handled an impressive number of cases for CVLS, says he volunteers as GAL, in part to build his private practice and experience in the courtroom, but mostly to help people.

While cases can be extremely emotional and challenging, Erich says, clients are always grateful and the experience is always rewarding. "Your heart just goes out to these people."

One of his most rewarding experiences involved a case with a 65-year-old woman caring for her elderly mother. They lived together in a small apartment where the mother was confined to a hospital bed and required 24/7 care. Despite the difficulty of the situation, his client's generosity and positivity shone through in her interactions, not only with her mother, but also with Erich. She even baked him cookies. "That's what it's all about," he says.

Erich's advice for young lawyers?

"Volunteer - it's fun!"

CLIENTS SAY ...

"Thank you really does not even begin to cover it!!! Without you we were dead in the water. All of your hard work is making our dreams come true. So ... from my whole heart ... Thank You."

Modification Saves Client's Long-Term Financial Plans

JJ and his wife, Roberta, struggling to get ahead, decided Roberta would return to nursing school, where she could eventually make considerably more income than she did as a Nursing Assistant.

However, without her income while she was in school, they began to fall behind on their mortgage. They cut back and made ends meet for months, but ended up in foreclosure just as Roberta was graduating and they were starting to get back on their feet.

They knew financial stability was now possible for them, but also understood they needed to clear this last hurdle. Upon entering the Circuit Court of Cook County Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program, they were relieved when volunteer attorney extraordinaire **Rich Orman** agreed to take their case.

Rich helped JJ and Roberta through the complex application process for a loan modification and, for once, everything went smoothly. Upon successful conclusion of a three-month trial plan, they were offered a permanent loan modification.

JJ and Roberta are now both fully employed and making their newly affordable mortgage payment.

CLIENTS SAY ...

"It's been a couple of years' process and I always felt respected and supported, and I always knew that CVLS had my back."

VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL

R. Cantrell Jones **Access to Justice Program**



R. Cantrell Jones, after volunteering for CVLS for a couple years, recently joined CVLS' Board of Directors.

When this Dentons Managing Associate started representing CVLS clients, he dove in head first. He took his first case, an administrative review action against the Secretary of State with no knowledge of that area of law - and won. He immediately jumped into his second case against the Chicago Housing Authority. He lost this one, but believed in his client and his case so much that he has appealed the case and is awaiting a decision.

No matter the result, Cantrell's clients can be sure they were represented persistently and vehemently by the very best.

Ann Peters **AILA Legal Clinic**



An active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, CVLS volunteer **Ann Peters** regularly offers her expertise in immigration law for the low-income clients who visit CVLS' AILA Legal Clinic. Her ongoing commitment to the AILA Legal Clinic often results in a challenging case load of intensive immigration related issues.

In her practice, Ann represents both detained and non-detained clients in the Chicago Immigration Court, as well as before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Asylum Office. CVLS and AILA are lucky to have such a devoted and experienced advocate for clients in this critically important area of law.

Patty Featured as Mentor with Commission on Professionalism



To help new lawyers acclimate to the profession, the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism developed the Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring Program, a year-long program connecting

young lawyers with more seasoned professionals.

Our own **Patty Nelson**, Director of the Access to Justice and Foreclosure Mediation programs, was recently featured with her mentee, Trey Maebry, discussing the tremendous mutual benefits of their experience.

Trey: *"Patty met me where I was professionally and even emotionally at times, and she gave me confidence to pursue a long-standing dream of mine. She was patient and supportive; answered all of the questions I could think to ask ... and pointed me in the right direction when I went astray."*

Americans with Disabilities Act: 25th Anniversary

ADA **25** **1990-2015**
AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT

July marks the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), signed into law on July 26, 1990. The landmark legislation has not only broken down physical and social barriers for persons with disabilities, but also shed light on the progress yet to be made in the struggle for inclusion.

In the past two and a half decades, the ADA, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, has made considerable progress toward equality in critical areas - employment, education, even architecture. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) expanded access for people with disabilities to education and training programs. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that students with disabilities be provided a "free appropriate public education."

But there is more to be done for the 1 in 5 Americans living with disabilities. The most recent available data put the poverty rate for working-age people with disabilities at 34.5%, compared with

12.2% for those without disabilities. Workers with disabilities are twice as likely to experience material hardships, be it food insecurity or access to medical care or ability to pay rent.

Civil legal aid is just one of the many ways to combat these inequalities. According to the Center for Disability and Elder Law, more than eighty percent (80%) of all low-income individuals are unable to obtain legal representation. Their Adult Guardianship Help Desk saw 736 people in 2014, assisting 353 pro se litigants with the Adult Guardianship legal process.

The 334 Adult GAL and Adult Guardianship cases CVLS closed in 2014 provided free legal services to alleviate those material hardships, services our clients at or just above the poverty line could not have otherwise afforded. Our collaboration with the Illinois Disability Association (IDA) expands our ability to provide pro bono services to even more low-income persons with disabilities and their guardians through financial and staff support.

If you're interested in volunteering with CVLS as a Guardian ad Litem for disabled adults, visit <http://www.cvls.org/volunteer>

Learn more about our IDA Collaboration and donate at http://ilpooledtrust.com/CVLS_Collaboration.html

We're looking for Race Judicata® 2015 Volunteers!

We're looking for volunteers to help make Race Judicata® 2015 a success!

Our goal is to have a record number of participants at the race this year— more than 5,000 runners! This event would not be successful without our many volunteers helping to make sure everything goes well on race day. Pass along this information to any friends and colleagues who may be interested in volunteering!

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

We will train you on Race Day. All volunteers will receive a goody bag, t-shirt, and wrist band for ages 21 and over. You'll be able to pick up your swag at the race site at the volunteer tent.

START TIMES & SHIFT INFORMATION

We have four different volunteer start times. Time commitments range from as little as 1.5 hours, to as many as 3.5 hours.

Registration for Race Judicata® 2015 is OPEN!



Registration for **Race Judicata® 2015** is now open! Join more than 5,000 runners and the rest of Chicago's legal community for free food, drinks and live music!

In the process, you'll be supporting CVLS' mission to ensure that the law works for everyone, not just those who can afford it!

Join us in Grant Park on September 10 to make this year's race the biggest and best yet.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- August 21: Last day of early bird registration
- August 28: Online Registration Closed
- August 29-30: Individual Packet Pickup
- September 9: Individual & Team Packet Pickup
- September 10: Race Day!!!

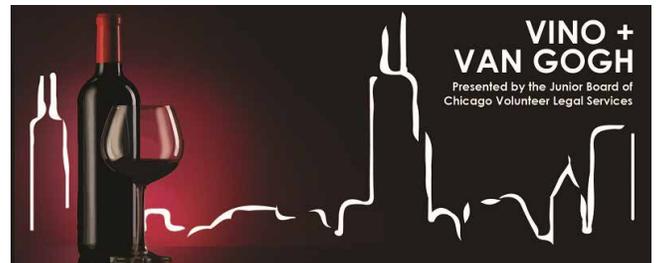
Take advantage of early registration!

Early Bird: \$34 until 8/21

Regular: \$39 from 8/22-9/4

Register online at cvls.org/judicata!

Purchase Your Tickets for Vino & Van Gogh!



Join the Junior Board of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services as they host the 6th Annual Vino & Van Gogh!

Vino & Van Gogh is a wonderful opportunity for all professionals to enjoy art, food, music and drinks while mingling with old friends and making new connections.

Every year local Chicago artists and students display their artwork for guests to enjoy and add to the alluring atmosphere customary for this event. A variety of media will be represented, including print art, paintings and sculpture.

Art will be available to purchase through the artists at reasonable prices with a percentage donated to CVLS, and all proceeds of Vino & Van Gogh go toward CVLS.

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING VINO & VAN GOGH?

This event is a great opportunity to gain exposure among key audiences in Chicago's legal community, while supporting a worthy cause. For sponsorship information, visit cvls.org/vinovangogh and download the sponsorship form.

Friday, October 16, 6-10PM

National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halsted

Tickets \$60 in advance, \$75 at the door

Purchase tickets online at cvls.org/vinovangogh!

5K RUN/WALK BENEFITING CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES

RACE JUDICATA®

CVLS.ORG/JUDICATA



**THURSDAY REGISTER
09.10.2015 ONLINE!**

**ARVEY FIELD GRANT PARK \$34 EARLY
\$39 AFTER 8/21**

6:30 PM RACE START FREE FOOD & DRINKS!*

LIVE MUSIC *VALID PHOTO ID REQUIRED FOR WRISTBAND

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Upcoming CVLS Events

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:

Administration of Small, Uncontested, Decedent Estates In Cook County

CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

Wednesday, July 22

- Presented by Steve Raminiak

CVLS volunteer and Board of Directors member Steve Raminiak, Esq. presents an introduction to decedents' estate administration in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

This seminar is meant to provide a solid foundation in the administration of small, uncontested, decedent estates. Steve will cover:

- Introduction and preliminary considerations
- Filing a will and opening a probate estate
- Designation of a personal fiduciary and the affidavit of heirship

*CVLS is proud to present a **GAL for Minors seminar series** in conjunction with the **Chicago School of Professional Psychology!** Masters and doctoral students from the Chicago School will present on a variety of mental health topics as they relate to Guardian ad Litem cases.*

GAL for Minors | GALs & School-Related Issues

CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

Wednesday, October 7

- Presented by Brianne Dotts

Most GALs for Minors are not experts in education or school law, but virtually all GALs work with children who are in school (or may be entitled to school services or early intervention). Therefore, it is critical to know the basics of education law, how it can impact your representation as a GAL, and how to advocate for your child in common school-related issues.

TRAININGS

New Volunteer Orientations

CVLS Offices, 12:15 PM

- Thursday, August 13

- Thursday, September 17

We'll cover the skills required to be a successful volunteer attorney, as well as the issues that may come up during cases. Training is for new volunteers working with CVLS.

Please visit www.cvls.org/cle to register for a seminar!

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