



# Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight.

## Upcoming Events

**May 17** - Immigration Consular Processing Overview and Recent Developments, 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

**May 18** - New Volunteer Orientation 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

**May 20** - Guardianship Planning for Undocumented Immigrants, Pilsen Academy, 10:30 a.m.

**June 3** - Guardianship Planning for Undocumented Immigrants, Centro Romero, 11:30 a.m.

**June 13** - GAL for Minors Training, 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

**June 20** - New Volunteer Orientation, 12:15 p.m.- 1:15 p.m.

**September 14** - Race Judicata®, 6:30 p.m.



Clockwise from top: Jordan Heinz, Elizabeth Lewis, Colton Long, Jeanna Palmer Gunville, Roya Samarghandi, Alexa Van Brunt

## Welcome (Back) New & Renewed Board and Junior Board Members

Congratulations to **Kim Halvorsen**, of Clifford Law Offices, **Eddie Houlihan**, of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, **Steve Raminiak**, of Law Offices of Steve Raminiak, P.C. **Dan Spira**, of Sidley Austin LLP, **Joe Tylutki** of KEW Group and **Bryan Webster** of Reed Smith. Each were reelected for another three-year term on CVLS' Board of Directors. Thank you to retiring board members **Heidi Rowe** and **Jon Theobald** for their board service.

**Jordan M. Heinz**, of Kirkland & Ellis, and **Elizabeth P. Lewis** of McDermott Will & Emery, were elected to serve their first terms on the board. A double PILI with CVLS, Jordan was a CVLS intern in 2003 and a fellow in 2005. In addition, he served on CVLS' Junior Board of Directors. Jordan is a huge fan of pro bono, taking his own cases, helping to coordinate Kirkland's pro bono program and mentoring Kirkland associates with their pro bono work. Elizabeth works as

McDermott's firm-wide Pro Bono and Community Service Partner and has always been a CVLS supporter. She sits on PILI's board, and is chair-elect of the Chicago Bar Foundation's Young Professionals Board.

**Nora Endzel**, Endzel Law, **Justin From**, Harrison Law LLC, **Natalie LaPorta**, Walgreen Co. and **Nick Niles**, Ropes & Gray, were all reelected to another term on CVLS' Junior Board. **Colton Long**, of Seyfarth Shaw, **Alexa Van Brunt**, of the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, **Roya Samarghandi** of Carmel Law and **Jeanna Palmer Gunville** of Drinker Biddle were elected as new members. Outgoing members include **Monique Bhargava** and **Matthew Schiltz**, whose hard work over the years has built the CVLS Junior Board and Vino + Van Gogh into the engines for social justice that they are today.

## Thanks for coming to Law & Disorder!

Thank you to everyone who came to Law & Disorder on May 3! In addition to serving as a fundraiser, Law & Disorder lets us recognize and honor the excellent work our volunteers do.

Our volunteers are CVLS' backbone. Without their dedication, hard work, great ideas and compassionate nature, we could not have helped nearly 10,000 Chicago area residents obtain access to justice they otherwise would not be able to afford.

All of the proceeds from Law & Disorder will help CVLS provide much-needed civil legal aid to low-income Chicagoans.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Liz Peterson

When Ms. H needed a bankruptcy, she was referred to a “preparer” who charged her \$750 to complete the forms. At her preliminary bankruptcy hearing, the trustee reviewing her case described her paperwork as some of the most poorly prepared he had ever seen. The preparer created handwritten schedules of Ms. H’s assets and liabilities, and listed everything as domestic support obligations. Had that document been filed, none of her debts would be dischargeable under the law. The trustee saw that Ms. H had been taken advantage of, and referred her to his daughter, and CVLS volunteer, **Liz Peterson**.

Liz and CVLS agreed to take the case. Liz worked with Ms. H to correct course and guide her through the bankruptcy process with expert care, respect and attention to detail. In the meantime, they also worked with the U.S. Trustee’s office to impose penalties against the preparer. The court granted the motion and required the preparer to return the fee Ms. H had paid him, in addition to a \$2,000 statutory penalty. The Court also imposed \$7,500 in penalties on the preparer, paid to the Trustee’s office. When another bankruptcy came before another bankruptcy trustee’s office with similar issues, the preparer was permanently enjoined from preparing bankruptcy paperwork for anyone else.

“She filed for bankruptcy because she needs help and this guy took advantage of the situation,” Liz said. Ms. H’s bankruptcy is moving forward with Liz’s expert guidance and she will soon be on more stable financial footing. The preparer is making court ordered payments to Ms. H for the damage he caused, and is legally barred from taking advantage of other people facing bankruptcy again. Because of Liz’s hard work, Ms. H is getting the skilled guidance she needs, and an unskilled petition preparer won’t be able to take advantage of others in the future. Great work, Liz!

## Staff Spotlight: No Child Left Behind: Miriam Araya Helps All Children Have a Voice

*By Costa Nikolaidis*

When families face legal issues children are the ones most negatively affected, and this is especially true for those in low-income families. Enter CVLS’ Child Rep Program! Through this venture, CVLS works to connect pro bono attorneys to children in need of representation. Integral to this process is Child Rep Coordinator, **Miriam Araya**.

Miriam graduated from Princeton University, earning a degree in Sociology with a certificate in African Studies. Grateful for her education, Miriam feels an obligation to give back to her community. This drove her to apply for and be accepted to Princeton’s P55 Fellowship, a program geared toward helping undergraduates gain experience in the field of public service. Thanks to that, in 2015, Miriam came to CVLS.

As Child Rep Program Coordinator, Miriam has helped shape the program. Along with matching representatives with children, Miriam makes sure they have all of the information and documents needed for the representation. Moreover, Miriam goes the extra mile to ensure that every child gets what they need. In her very first case, the location of the child for whom Miriam was supposed to arrange representation was unknown. The child’s father had been sent to prison, but before being incarcerated he dropped the child off with a relative, and he refused to say where he had sent the child. Miriam worked tirelessly with the attorney on the case, investigating possible addresses, meeting with the father in prison, and collaborating with a detective until they were finally able to locate and meet with the child.

Miriam’s studies in sociology have helped her relate to clients by giving her an understanding of their backgrounds and the types of struggles they have faced,

while her work with CVLS has given her insight into how complicated the legal system can be. These experiences have given her an appreciation for how great the need is for all people to have access to legal representation, and has thereby cemented her decision to become a public interest lawyer. Meanwhile, her can-do spirit and kindness have made her a pleasure to work with and a veritable force for change. Way to go Miriam!

## Case Note

In 2009, Carolyn and her husband divorced. Her ex-husband was the sole owner of the property and the sole borrower under the mortgage loan. As part of the divorce, he quitclaimed the property to Carolyn, but remained on the mortgage.

In 2012, Carolyn’s income was reduced and she got a loan modification without any trouble. A few years later, expenses increased when her son went to college. Fearing a default, she tried to get a second modification. This time, the mortgage servicer refused to talk to her because she was not on the mortgage. A foreclosure suit was filed, and Carolyn almost lost the family home. Fortunately, the judge referred her to CVLS through the Access to Justice Program.

CVLS placed the case with pro bono attorney **Michelle Villarreal**, who got right to work completing a beautiful modification application. Michelle also told the lender and their attorneys federal regulations required the lender to communicate with Carolyn and review her for a modification. It worked. Carolyn was able to keep the house with a reduced payment, and the foreclosure was dismissed.

## Standout Volunteers Honored at Law & Disorder

Each year at Law & Disorder CVLS honors the volunteers who make our good work possible. Our volunteers spend nights and weekends working with clients and they take time out of their busy workday to help someone who cannot afford a lawyer obtain access to justice. Every year thousands of attorneys help low income Chicagoans resolve their legal problems, for free, because they believe it is the right thing to do.

Last year 2,095 volunteer attorneys helped almost 10,000 Chicago area residents navigate complicated legal problems. Those attorneys counseled, advised and represented people through foreclosures, evictions, bankruptcies, divorces, adoptions, guardianships, immigration cases and dozens of other types of legal problems.

Without volunteers there is no CVLS. Our volunteers take cases that change people's lives, they help train young attorneys to value pro bono work and perform it skillfully. Every year we like to honor those volunteers who went above and beyond for CVLS, their clients or the pro bono community. These are just a few of our volunteers whose dedication and exemplary work stood out.

**COURT OF HONOR**  
Richard A. Campbell

**PROGRAM PARTNER**  
AILA Chicago Chapter

**American Immigration Lawyers Association**  
Renae M. Yoo

**Amicus Poloniae**  
Arthur Corbin  
Richard E. Zabelski

**Chinese American Services League**  
Thanhan (An) Nguyen  
Stephanie L. Tang

**Jane Addams**  
James M. Cascino

**JUF / JCLS Community Legal Services**  
Richard H. Levy

**PILI / Legal Prep Community Law Clinic**  
Laurie I. Mikva

**Locke Lord / St. Procopius Church**  
Rebecca M. Hemmings

**Our Lady of Mercy / St. Clements Church**  
Karen L. Choudhury

**Schiff Hardin / How Inc.**  
Matthew G. Schiltz

**Sidley Austin / Salvation Army**  
Sarah Bermingham

**South Asian Legal Clinic**  
Furqan Mohammed

**Southeast Legal Clinic /  
New Life Covenant Church**  
Karen A. Meaderds

**Old St. Mary's Church**  
Maureen J. McGann

**In-House**  
Marc Ungar

**Panel**  
Susan A. Malter  
Brooke G. Rezeko  
Faustine T. Walcott

**GAL Minor**  
Debra S. Davy  
Mariska S. Richards

**GAL Adult**  
Marcie L. Hefler  
Lyle R. Mays

**Child Rep**  
Janet K. Maxwell-Wickett  
Agnieszka Zielinski Olechno

**Access to Justice**  
Jonathan N. Adair

**Mediation**  
Barbara A. Mallon  
Richard W. Orman



Above: **Joe Pieper**, who recently received the DePaul University College of Law Pro Bono Alumni Award for his work in Chicago's pro bono legal community over the last 20 years.

## Volunteer wins DePaul Pro Bono Award!

Longtime CVLS volunteer **Joe Pieper** won the 2017 DePaul University College of Law Pro Bono Alumni Award. Joe has worked with CVLS for more than 20 years, taking on countless Guardian ad litem cases in addition to accepting appointments directly from Cook County Probate Judges. Joe's willingness to help CVLS and our clients extends to taking contested, complex cases and last-minute GAL appointments. An asset to CVLS and his clients, it's common to see Joe, with kindness and patience, helping a pro se client fill in a complicated form in the hallway on the 18th floor of the Daley Center.

In his acceptance speech Joe said he learned about service from his parents. His dad, a doctor, would stop and help victims whenever he saw an accident on the road. The DePaul University College of Law Pro Bono Alumni Award is given annually to someone who has demonstrated an on-going and deep commitment to pro bono legal services for the poor and disadvantaged, and has inspired others to do the same. Susan DeCostanza, Director of CVLS, Guardian ad litem for Adults Program, nominated Joe for the award and we're elated for his win! Congratulations, Joe, you earned it!

## Cherish and CVLS

With her low and sporadic income, Cherish relied on her housing subsidy to provide a safe home for herself and her three children. That security was threatened when, in 2012, the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) notified her it was terminating her voucher because she failed to report income. Cherish had always reported her income adjustments, but the HACC never followed up on them.

She fought the termination herself at an administrative hearing, lost, and filed a pro se complaint for judicial review. The court referred her to CVLS through the Access to Justice Program. Three remand hearings later, the judge upheld the termination, and CVLS went to the Appellate Court. In March, the Court ruled in Cherish's favor, holding that the HACC violated her due process right to notice, failed to follow up on her numerous change-of-income reports, and proposed unreasonable repayment plans.

The opinion can be read by visiting [www.illinoiscourts.gov/r23\\_orders/AppellateCourt/2017/1stDistrict/1153615\\_R23.pdf](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/r23_orders/AppellateCourt/2017/1stDistrict/1153615_R23.pdf). Several pro bono attorneys helped Cherish along the way. Thank you for making equal access to justice a reality for Cherish and her family!

# Case Notes

## Rebekah, Milton & Yeny

*CVLS Executive Director Margaret Benson wrote this piece, which was originally published in the April edition of Chicago Lawyer Magazine.*

Milton and Yeny enjoyed a nice life in Guatemala City until Milton witnessed a gang execution on his way home from work. He didn't want to be a witness. He was caught in the middle of the street as a group of men harassed a 15-year-old boy. Suddenly, before Milton could turn around, one man pulled out a gun and shot the boy in the head. Milton recognized the man as the leader of a feared gang. That man and a few of his followers ran up to Milton and threatened to kill him too. They let him go with a warning. "You didn't see anything."

A few days later, the police stopped Milton on the street and began questioning him. After learning where he lived and worked and his daily schedule, they asked if he'd seen anything unusual lately. When Milton said no, one of the officers accused him of lying and pistol-whipped him. The officer warned that the shooter was his cousin and that Milton had better keep quiet. Milton discovered that the officer was a high-ranking member of the Guatemalan national police department. Milton knew he and his family were in danger. He went to the Office of Human Rights for help. They refused to let him make a claim because getting involved with the police was too dangerous. They said the gang would come after them too.

Shortly after that visit, Milton narrowly escaped when several police officers chased him and fired several shots. Milton took his pregnant wife and young children to another part of the city. Gang members broke into their apartment. They moved again, but one day a woman on the street tried to force his wife into a car. They moved out of the city to a remote area in the mountains, but Milton couldn't find work and their children had no school. After Yeny gave birth and with nowhere else to hide, they realized they had to leave Guatemala. Milton came to the U.S. The harrowing, dangerous trip took one month. As

soon as he got across the border, he was arrested. An old friend of his mother's posted bond for him and helped Milton get his case moved to Chicago. In the meantime, Yeny and her children were being harassed by police officers looking for Milton. Again, she moved, but family members wouldn't let her stay with them because they were afraid as well. It was time for her and the children to join Milton in Chicago.

After she left, gang members shot and killed Milton's brother at the family business. The shooter told witnesses that it was revenge because Milton had talked. Men claiming to be police officers continued to lurk around the homes of other family members. Eventually, Milton's parents and remaining siblings were forced to flee Guatemala.

Milton and Yeny applied for asylum through the National Justice Immigrant Center. Pro bono attorneys **Rebekah Rashidfarokhi** and **Allison Singer** spent hours interviewing them and others, researching gang and police corruption in Guatemala and establishing the elements of a successful asylum case. They won the case in 2007. Milton and Yeny and their four children were safe as legal American residents.

Ten years later, Milton and Yeny have good, stable, full-time jobs. They and their children became American citizens last year. Milton and Yeny recently purchased a house in Chicago. Their oldest, a daughter, was just accepted into one of Chicago's selective enrollment high schools. Their other children are doing equally well in school. While Milton and Yeny are still more comfortable speaking Spanish, their children are becoming fluently bilingual. This family is giving back to their new country. They pay income and property taxes. They are good American citizens. This is an American immigration story. It's also an American pro bono story.

This is what caring American lawyers do.



# TEAM TENTS

## Race Judicata® 2017

**Reserve a team tent today** for your company or running team and you'll have the perfect place to meet, hang out, eat, and socialize while enjoying all the race festivities.

**Bypass the packet pick-up** upon arrival at the race site on the day of the event your tent will be set-up and stocked with all your race necessities- including goody bags, t-shirts and race numbers.

**\*\*Submit your form by March 24 and receive a \$50 discount!\*\***  
(Discount applied on invoice) Space is limited. All tent rentals are on a first-come-first-served basis. Tent rental deadline is **July 7**.

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You may fax your form with a credit card number to 312.332.1460. Please make checks payable to **CVLS** and mail to: Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS), 33 North Dearborn St., Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60602

\_\_\_\_\_ **Team Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact Person**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail Address**

**Tent Size**  Large  Small **Number of Tents** \_\_\_\_\_

In order to better serve you please let us know how many tables and chairs you will need.  
(Small tent limit: 2 tables and 8 chairs; Large tent limit: 3 tables 12 chairs)

**Tables** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chairs** \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to tables and chairs, please contact me about the following special requests:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>PRICING:</b>	
Without Sponsorship	
Large 20 x 10	\$1199
Small 10 x 10	\$799
With Sponsorship	
Large 20 x 10	\$949
Small 10 x 10	\$549

**Credit Card Number**  American Express  Mastercard  Visa

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Expiration Date**

\_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

# Upcoming Events

All events take place at Chicago Volunteer Legal Services' administrative office, unless otherwise stated. We are located at 33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 400, Chicago.

Please see our website, [cvls.org](http://cvls.org), to register for an upcoming seminar, or for more information.

**May 17, Immigration Consular Processing, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

*This presentation will provide a high-level overview of Consular Processing for new immigration practitioners, and will touch on recent trends and developments following the November 2016 election. Topics will include: The role of the Department of State in the immigration process; Non-immigrant visa applications; Immigrant visa applications; Waivers and other considerations; Pitfalls and best practices; Consular Processing in the Trump Administration and emerging trends.*

**May 18 – New Volunteer Orientation, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

*Come to one of our new volunteer orientations and sit down with a CVLS staff attorney who will take you through the ins and outs of being a Chicago Volunteer Legal Services volunteer. Please note, you must be an attorney to sign up for one of our new volunteer orientations.*

**May 20 - Guardianship Planning for Undocumented Immigrants Clinic**

**10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Pilsen Academy,  
1420 W 17th St., Chicago

**June 3 - Guardianship Planning for Undocumented Immigrants Clinic**

**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Centro Romero,  
6216 N Clark St., Chicago

*Volunteer attorneys are needed for consultations with immigrant families. All are welcome. There will be no attorney training prior to these events, but interested attorneys who do not practice guardianship law can watch our training video found at [cvls.org/resources-guardianship-immigrant-families](http://cvls.org/resources-guardianship-immigrant-families) prior to the event. From this video, you will learn about the different types of legal guardianship in Illinois, with emphasis on short-term guardianships. Short-term guardianships are private party documents that do not require court involvement. Attorneys will learn when short-term guardianships are appropriate, the advantages and disadvantages of the forms, and how to help families complete them. Many families who come to these clinic on June 3rd will be seeking help from us in filling out this form.*

*Rebekah Rashidfarokhi, Director of CVLS' Guardian ad Litem Program for Minors, along with other CVLS staff, will be available before and during the clinic to answer any questions attorneys and families might have. Fluency in Spanish is extremely helpful but not required; CVLS can arrange for interpreters for attorneys who need them.*

*To register for this clinic please email Rebekah at [Rebekah@cvls.org](mailto:Rebekah@cvls.org). Please include your address, phone number, ARDC number, date of admission to the bar, and any languages spoken fluently*

**June 13 – GAL for Minors Training, 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.**

*Rebekah Rashidfarokhi, Director of CVLS' Guardian ad Litem for Minors program, will cover the skills required to be a successful GAL for a minor as well as the issues that may come up during the case. This training is for licensed attorneys interested in working as pro bono Guardians ad Litem for children through CVLS. No prior experience is necessary.*

**June 20 - New Volunteer Orientation 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.**

*Come to one of our new volunteer orientations and sit down with a CVLS staff attorney as they take you through the ins and outs of being a Chicago Volunteer Legal Services volunteer. Please note, you must be an attorney to sign up for one of our new volunteer orientations.*

**September 14 - Race Judicata® Arvey Field, 6:30 p.m.**

*Race Judicata® 2017 is a 5K Run/Walk, benefiting Chicago Volunteer Legal Services in our mission to ensure that the law works for everyone. This is the 23rd anniversary of the run and we are looking forward to making this year the biggest and best ever!*

# New Online CLE

CVLS strives to offer Continuing Legal Education programs that are engaging and useful to the viewer. Although all presentations are hosted in our offices, those who are unable to attend an in-person training can watch them online, from anywhere, at any time and still earn CLE credit.

## General Foreclosure Defense

2.25 hours CLE credit

*Foreclosure can be an intimidating area of law to practice. It is full of acronyms, arcane terms, and a plethora of loss mitigation programs and regulations. Staff Attorney Matthew Hulstein will cover the basics: the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law (IMFL), loss mitigation concepts, servicing requirements, and how to assess and reach your client's goals.*

[cvls.org/seminar/general-foreclosure-defense](http://cvls.org/seminar/general-foreclosure-defense)

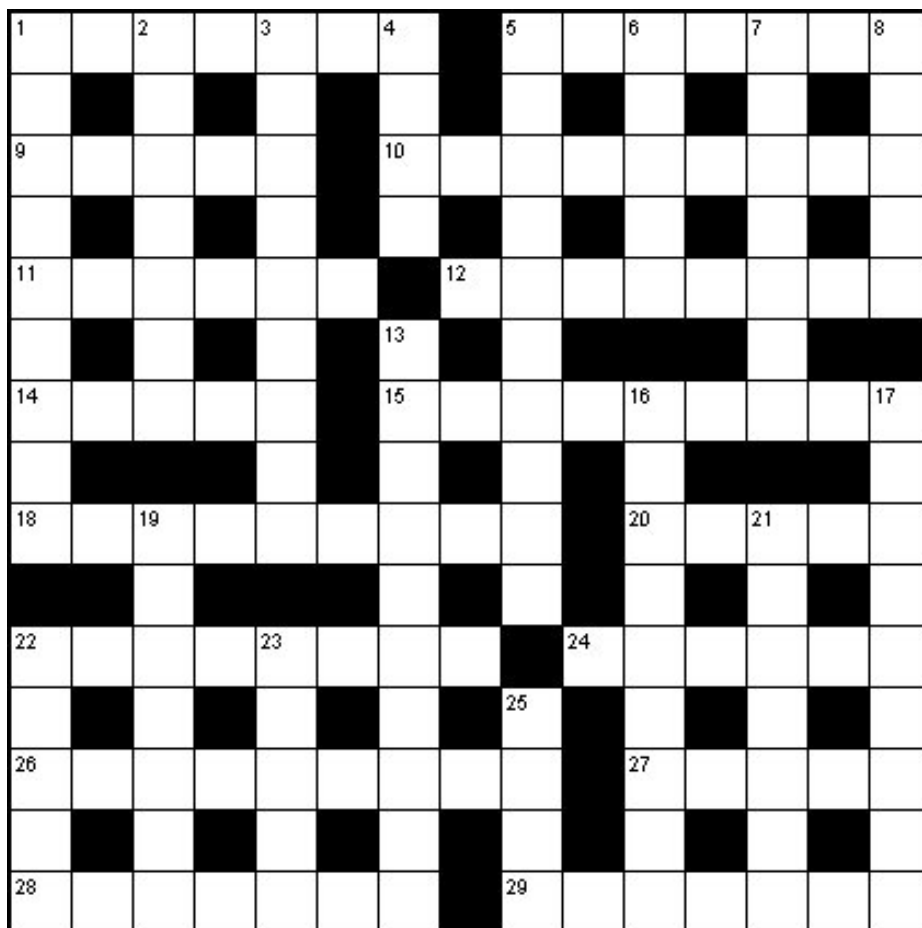
## Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Predicate Orders

1.5 hours CLE credit

*CVLS has partnered with the National Immigrant Justice Center to help unaccompanied minors who are eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status in the US. These cases have been reviewed and screened by the NIJC, and will be CVLS cases for the family law matter only, so volunteers are not committing to represent the client in the underlying immigration matter unless they want to.*

*This training is for volunteers interested in helping a family obtain a predicate order in Domestic Relations for SIJS purposes. Hosted by Hillary Richardson, National Immigrant Justice Center Staff Attorney and Meredith Turner-Woolley, Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd.*

[cvls.org/seminar/special-immigrant-juvenile-status-predicate-orders](http://cvls.org/seminar/special-immigrant-juvenile-status-predicate-orders)



### ACROSS

- 1 Language spoken in American city by native Norwegian? (7)
- 5 What Flaubert's topless Madame does regularly (7)
- 9 Old Roman money houses (5)
- 10 Two articles about the digestion, mostly, of lowest order of insects (9)
- 11 Main route for vessel (6)
- 12 Geometry of the Earth, for example, is static (8)
- 14 The end of Pilgrim's Progress (5)
- 15 The key to understanding God is held in Sanskrit philosophical treatise (9)
- 18 Academic terms for selenium meso-compounds (9)
- 20 Avifauna in a Cornish habitat (5)
- 22 Reduce as much as possible the payment on the car (8)
- 24 The centre of Verona, with pairs of Corinthian columns, displays this architectural style (6)
- 26 Lawyers go into metal storage building (5-4)
- 27 Time for the heartless politician to find love (5)
- 28 Avert goal after penalty - but tie unfortunately is lost (7)

- 29 One with a distant ideal, like Martin Luther King? (7)

### DOWN

- 1 Nasty, smug criminal has eye trouble (9)
- 2 Tyneside academic gets most of the credit for description of molecular arrangement (7)
- 3 Rose garden not unknown to Scotsman and Pole, if they are these (9)
- 4 Sleep soundly by hillock (4)
- 5 Is in conversation to Lord too much? (10)
- 6 Edict puts a thousand back into employment (5)
- 7 I throw up into powdered remains of fire axe (7)
- 8 Snakes endlessly glide away (5)
- 13 Place in Victoria's country? (10)
- 16 Oxygen intake has so developed in algae (9)
- 17 D. Brown perhaps is brought in - to spoil Hugh, we hear (9)
- 19 To get to Lizard Point I go in the car (7)
- 21 Most reckon to turn up before Mother makes the fish sauce (4,3)
- 22 Missouri model provided the design (5)
- 23 Oddly, monkey is superior to me in capacity for memory! (5)
- 25 Lop off ends (4)

Visit [cvls.org/news](http://cvls.org/news) for the solution to this month's crossword puzzle.

Set by Alberich via [www.alberichcrosswords.com](http://www.alberichcrosswords.com)

The logo for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services is a black, angular shape with a white rectangular cutout on the right side. The text "CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters inside the black shape.

**CHICAGO  
VOLUNTEER  
LEGAL  
SERVICES**

33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60602