



# Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight.

## Upcoming Events

**April 18** - GAL for Adults Training; 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**April 19** - New Volunteer Orientation; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**April 24** - Seminar: Child Representative Training; 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**April 24** - Seminar: Recognizing, Understanding, and Referring a Colleague in Need; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**May 9** - Seminar: Inventories and Accounts for Minors & Disabled Persons in Cook County, Illinois, in 2018; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**May 17** - Law & Disorder; River Roast, 315 N LaSalle St 5:30 p.m.



*Sebastien Angel, Schiff Hardin LLP*

## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Don't mess with this guardian Angel

Disabled from two massive strokes, Patricia relies on her Section 8 voucher to keep her family safely housed. Last year, police pressured her landlord to evict her because they thought she was harboring criminals. The landlord complied, despite having no evidence of any crime. Then, because an eviction violates Section 8 rules, the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) moved to terminate her voucher. Although she did her best to defend herself at the HACC hearing, the Hearing Officer ruled against her.

Patricia filed a *pro se* petition for judicial review and, luckily for her, was sent to CVLS through the Chancery Court Access to Justice Program. Even more

luckily for her, Schiff Hardin attorney Sebastien Angel took her case.

Realizing that the eviction had been illegal, Sebastien got the landlord to agree to a court order vacating the order of possession, which he forwarded to the HACC. They refused, however, to reinstate Patricia's voucher. So, Sebastien pressed on, submitting an excellent legal brief to the Chancery Court. Taking judicial notice of the court order vacating the eviction, the judge reversed the HACC's decision, and ordered it to pay Patricia's new landlord the benefits it had withheld. Sebastien's zealous advocacy set the record straight and saved Patricia and her family from homelessness. Well done, Sebastien!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR LAW & DISORDER 2018

Laugh along with us as we celebrate the spirit of pro bono and the volunteers that make it possible at our fourth Law and Disorder fundraiser and award ceremony.

**Thursday, May 17, 5:30 PM**  
**River Roast**  
**315 N LaSalle St**

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

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

Schiff  
Hardin

SIDLEY

## New FREE CLE seminars available online!

### 2017-2018 Income Tax Update

Larry Krupp, CPA

1.00 hour CLE credit

<https://goo.gl/wUvzLa>

### Asylum: Particular Social Groups

Jenny Ansay, Northern Illinois Justice for  
Our Neighbors

1.00 hour CLE credit

<https://goo.gl/BVS2ZV>

### Complex Issues with U Visas

Brittini Rivera, Krizelman, Burton &  
Associates

1.00 hour CLE credit

<https://goo.gl/KTdvzm>

More available at

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



## MENTAL HEALTH PRO BONO PILOT PROGRAM TO LAUNCH

Every year, nearly one in five Americans will experience a mental health crisis or concern, and countless more will watch a loved one struggle with mental illness. Working to ensure access to appropriate care and services for someone with mental illness can be overwhelming. Friends and family often receive conflicting information and struggle to understand the medical, legal, and supportive services that are available, how they intersect, and how they can be accessed by or on behalf of a loved one.

In CVLS adult guardianship appointments, our volunteer GALs handle cases where an adult child petitions the Court for guardianship of a parent with mental illness, usually to ensure that he or she will be able to make sure that the parent takes prescribed medication. The child manages to file the petition pro se and navigate through tricky courthouse procedures only to find that, even as court-appointed guardian, the child does not have the authority to make the parent take psychotropic medication against the parent's will. Guardianship may still be an appropriate and beneficial tool for the family, but the process of navigating legal, therapeutic, and social services systems can be confusing and frustrating.

CVLS invites you to **Empowering Families Affected by Mental Illness** at the Chicago Bar Association on April 9, 2018 from

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM. You will learn from mental health law experts and social service providers about how civil mental health laws can empower families to seek help on behalf of their loved ones, and about the importance of holistic support during recovery. Any attorney who has represented a client managing a mental health situation will find this program incredibly valuable.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about the new Mental Health Pro Bono Pilot Program. Operated by the Center for Disability and Elder Law, attorneys will provide limited scope, but high impact, assistance to families struggling to get legal help for their loved ones before, during, and after a mental health episode. Pro bono volunteers will work directly with families, offering vital information about their legal options, ranging from guardianship to involuntary inpatient admission. These volunteers will be provided with training and access to support as well as supervision from legal aid providers and lawyers from the private bar.

Questions about the program can be directed to Susan L. DeCostanza at [sdecostanza@cvls.org](mailto:sdecostanza@cvls.org).

## EXTREMELY EXECRABLE EX

### Homeowner helped by CVLS teamwork

Archangel's husband abandoned his family, drained their bank accounts, and stopped paying the mortgage. The lender wouldn't talk to Archangel because the house and loan were in her husband's name. They divorced and Archangel was awarded the house along with the mortgage. But, her ex refused to sign a deed and the lender still wouldn't talk to her. Foreclosure loomed.

The foreclosure turned out to be fortuitous for Archangel and her three children because the Chancery court ordered mediation and appointed CVLS to represent her. Staff attorneys Matt Hulstein and Rob Zielinski knew just what to do. Rob went to the Domestic Relations Division and got a judicial deed, and then Matt helped Archangel apply for a loan modification. Now that the house was in her name, the lender approved a trial payment plan (TPP). As long as she made three trial payments on time, the lender would let her assume

the mortgage and give her a permanent modification.

But Archangel's ex caught wind of the TPP and told the lender to cancel it. They complied because his name was still on the account. So, Matt fought back with the lender, arguing that the cancellation violated servicing regulations, while Rob petitioned the Domestic Relations Court, getting orders enjoining the ex from interfering with the modification and directing the lender to complete the process. The lender relented and let Archangel make her trial payments. Although her ex continued to press the lender to cancel the plan, this time the bank ignored his calls. Archangel got her permanently modified mortgage. Go Team CVLS!



*Matthew Hulstein, CVLS Supervising Attorney,  
Access to Justice Program*



*Rob Zielinski, CVLS Staff Attorney,  
Child Rep Program*

[cvls.org/lawanddisorder](http://cvls.org/lawanddisorder)

# LAW & Disorder

Celebrating the spirit of pro bono  
and the volunteers that make it happen.  
Join us for a night of laughter, fun and celebration.

Date: Thursday, 17th May, 2018

Time: 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: River Roast, 315 N LaSalle St

Tickets: \$100

Small Table w/ 4 Tickets: \$550

Large Table w/ 6 Tickets: \$650

Government and Non-Profit Rates Available

## COURT UPDATE

### Local Rule 39

Starting March 1, lawyers filing electronically with the 1st District Appellate Court will have to submit six duplicate paper copies of briefs and appendices with the circuit clerk's office within five days.

Local Rule 39 was entered on January 30 and is intended to be "temporary".



CVLS Staff and friends gather to congratulate Jonathan on a job well done; (left to right) Josh Altman, Matthew Hulstein, Jonathan Adair, Marty Cozzola, Katie Rhoades, Matt Pollock, Debi Filipovich, Jordan Heinz, Susan DeCostanza, Deepa Arora

## CHILD REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING

### New and Improved

On April 24, 2018, CVLS will present a live, updated version of our Child Representative Training Seminar. Deputy Director Phil Mohr and Staff Attorney Rob Zielinski will help interested volunteer attorneys learn about and explore the world of serving as a Child Representative and Guardian ad Litem in the Cook County Domestic Relations Division. Following the three-hour training, volunteers will be prepared to take Child Rep cases on a pro bono basis through CVLS.

CVLS is appointed by the Domestic Relations Court to represent the best interests of children in cases where parents cannot afford representation. These cases typically involve contested issues of parental decision-making and parenting time. Our volunteers investigate these issues, negotiate with parties, recommend services when appropriate, and advocate for the child in and out of the courtroom.

Since the creation of the CVLS Child Rep Program in 2014, Illinois family law has undergone substantial changes,

including the elimination of the terms "custody" and "visitation." We encourage new volunteers to attend the April 24 training seminar to learn how these changes in the law affect the role of Child Representative in Domestic Relations cases.

The CVLS Child Rep Program offers an alternative method for attorneys who wish to be included on the Court's paid Child Representative Roster. Volunteers may be eligible for appointments on fee-generating cases after completing just three cases with CVLS. If you are an attorney interested in volunteering as a Child Representative with CVLS or if you would like more information, please e-mail our Child Rep Coordinator, Marlyse Vieira, at [mav@cvls.org](mailto:mav@cvls.org).

*This new training will take place at 33 N. Dearborn St., Ste. 400 on April 24, 2018, at 1:30pm and will last approximately three hours. Attorneys who have not previously participated in a Child Representative Training Seminar will also be eligible for 2.5 hours of CLE credit.*

## A PRO BONO STAR IS BORN

### A new generation

Kirkland & Ellis LLP held their Pro Bono Reception on March 1st to honor their associates who have gone above and beyond in their pro bono work in the past year. CVLS Board Member, Jordan Heinz, metaphorically passed the torch on to Jonathan Adair who was given the Associate Pro Bono All-Stars award for his ongoing work with CVLS. Jordan formerly served on the CVLS Junior Board and Jonathan is a current Junior Board Member.

We are so proud to have Jordan and Jonathan as a part of our CVLS family!



Jonathan Adair, Kirkland & Ellis LLP



## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

[facebook.com/CVLSF](https://facebook.com/CVLSF)

## THIS MONTH

We've decided to highlight some of the pups and felines that support CVLS staff at home.

Follow us on facebook and we'll make sure to keep you up to date on all CVLS news, events, and of course, pets of CVLS!

## #PETSOF CVLS

### Your generosity makes a difference.

*Last year's donations provided life changing support to thousands of families.*

PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT

[cvls.org/donate](https://cvls.org/donate)

The logo for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services is a black, stylized shape resembling a speech bubble or a banner. It has a pointed left side and a pointed right side. The text "CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters inside the shape. The text is arranged in four lines: "CHICAGO", "VOLUNTEER", "LEGAL", and "SERVICES".

**CHICAGO  
VOLUNTEER  
LEGAL  
SERVICES**

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