



Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight.

Upcoming Events

February 19 - CVLS Closed - President's Day

February 22 - GAL for Adults Training; 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

February 27 - Seminar: Preparing Your 2017 Income Taxes; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

March 5 - CVLS Closed - Casimir Pulaski Day

March 15 - New Volunteer Orientation; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

March 29 - Seminar: Administrative Review Actions; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

May 9 - Seminar: Estate Inventories and Accounts; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.



Susan Malter, Susan Malter Law

THE (NOT SO) FAIRY TALE OF THE COPYRIGHT TROLL

Extortion scam thwarted

Picture this. You open up your mail one day to find a threatening letter from a high-powered attorney. The letter says that you illegally downloaded a movie and violated copyright law. You read a little further to find out you have to pay \$3,000 to settle the lawsuit, or potentially face \$150,000 dollars in legal fees.

You start to panic. You think, "I should consult an attorney about this." After you call an attorney, you find out that it would cost thousands of dollars to hire someone. You can't afford to settle, but you can't afford to hire an attorney. You're also fairly certain you didn't download that movie. What do you do?

This is the exact situation that CVLS client, Robert, found himself in. Later, he would learn that he was dealing with the notorious "copyright troll."

Copyright trolls may not live in caves or have green skin, but their actions are undeniably ugly. These lawyers all have the same approach. They know they'll never be successful in court because they don't have the evidence to prove a copyright violation, so instead they turn to extortion.

Longtime CVLS volunteer, Susan Malter, is no stranger to copyright trolls. "The evidence just isn't there.

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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
312 N LaSalle St

www.cvls.org/lawanddisorder

copyright troll continued

Every case where the defendant fights back, he or she wins," she said. Susan knows that trolls usually aim for low-income individuals, some of whom are undocumented, because they make easy targets.

Susan filed an Appearance on behalf of Robert and quickly filed a Motion to Dismiss. She then contacted the other attorney and threatened to file a counterclaim. After hearing from Robert's sword-wielding protector, the copyright troll dropped the lawsuit that same day.

While this case was relatively straightforward for Susan, Robert was eternally grateful. He knew he didn't do anything wrong, but he had no idea how to defend himself. Thanks to Susan, Robert can go back to living his life without having to worry about the "copyright troll."

New FREE CLE seminars available online!

Asylum: Particular Social Groups
Jenny Ansay, Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors
1.00 hours CLE credit
<https://goo.gl/BVS2ZV>

Asylum Law Demystified
Alen Takhsh, Takhsh Law, P.C
1.00 hours CLE credit
<https://goo.gl/xnhvjf>

Decedent's Estate Training / PCAP
Richard A. Campbell, Mayer Brown
1.25 hours CLE credit
<https://goo.gl/6mE6o2>

More available at
www.cvls.org/onlinecle

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

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Laura Bloniarz, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP

JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Juan's immigration story

Juan was just a young child when he first arrived in the United States. Although he was from a different country, Juan wound up living the life of a regular American kid, going to a regular American high school and falling in love with the young woman he eventually married. Despite his lack of citizenship, Juan was always proud to be a member of his community.

After the couple married and had their first child, Juan's wife tried to sponsor him for permanent residence. The application process took years. By the time Juan was legally allowed to remain here, his wife had already given birth to their second child.

CVLS joined Juan's immigration story in the final chapter – the naturalization application. Because his immigration history made Juan's application risky, it had to be carefully reviewed before submission. Laura Bloniarz, a CVLS volunteer through our American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) clinic, met with Juan, carefully went over the paperwork, prepared other essential forms, and submitted his application.

Three weeks before Valentine's Day, Juan gave his wife the sweetest gift: they attended his Naturalization Ceremony and Juan became a U.S. Citizen! When she found out the good news, Laura said, "The CVLS Immigration Clinic provides so many valuable services to immigrant families. I'm honored to support the Clinic because I know the meaningful impact the work has for clients like Juan and his family."



www.cvls.org/sponsor

LET THE EVENT PLANNING BEGIN

2018 Sponsorship Packages Released

Create awareness for your business among Chicago's leading firms and professionals, or just give back to your community. Our structured sponsorship packages offers you the opportunity to make an investment in year-round visibility for your brand with just one check. Depending on your level of commitment, your company receives benefits such as online and print marketing, on-site visibility, branded items, or even tickets to our events.

2018 Events Include

- Law & Disorder
- Race Judicata®
- Vino + Van Gogh

LAW & DISORDER

On May 17th, 2018 CVLS will be hosting our annual volunteer award ceremony and comedy show, Law & Disorder. The event is to celebrate the spirit of pro bono and our wonderful volunteers that make it possible. We anticipate approximately 250 guests at this function and the funds raised will go towards furthering our mission to coordinate, support and promote the voluntary pro bono legal representation of the Chicago area's poor and working poor.

Sponsors of this event enjoy a targeted audience of successful law firm partners, judges, and CVLS volunteers.

www.cvls.org/lawanddisorder

RACE JUDICATA®

If you are involved with Chicago's legal community, then you know about Race Judicata®, one of the legal industry's largest gatherings since 1994. Each year, over one hundred of Illinois largest law firms host running teams for this exciting event. Over 5,400 registered participants ran last year's 5K with hundreds more attending the afterparty in Grant Park.

Companies looking for massive exposure to the city's movers and shakers would be hard pressed to find a better bang for their buck than Race Judicata®. Sign up today and experience the benefits of aligning your brand with this well known event.

Tent rentals also available.

VINO + VAN GOGH

Hosted by the CVLS Junior Board, 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. This event is for the movers and shakers of tomorrow.

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.

www.cvls.org/vinovangogh

GETTING STARTED

Contact Matt Pollock, mnp@cvls.org, to inquire about your custom sponsorship package. Whether you support just one, or all three of our events, we are certain to have the right opportunity for you and your budget. For more details about sponsoring CVLS and our events, please visit www.cvls.org/sponsor.



Kevin Fritz, Seyfarth Shaw



Rashal Baz, Seyfarth Shaw



Kyla Miller, Seyfarth Shaw

TEAM SEYFARTH SHAW REPORTING FOR DUTY

Working together to ensure safe living environments for our elderly clients

When Charlie traveled from Michigan to visit her elderly mother in Chicago, she noticed that her mother, Dorothy, had lost a significant amount of weight. Charlie quickly got Dorothy to the doctor and moved from the home she shared with Charlie’s brother into a more structured living arrangement, while also nursing her back to better health. As Charlie lives in Michigan, she was worried that her mother’s health might decline again once Charlie moved back home. So, Charlie went to court and petitioned for guardianship.

Attorney Kevin Fritz had participated in an Adult GAL Training at his firm and agreed to take the case. Pulling in a new associate, Rashal Baz, to join him on the matter, they talked to 13 of Dorothy’s children and grandchildren, an Adult Protective Services worker, an Ombudsman, the Director of Social Services at a facility where Dorothy had stayed and also interviewed three of Dorothy’s in-home service providers. Additionally, Kevin and Rashal uncovered at least three different powers of attorney that various family members had Dorothy sign, and reviewed Dorothy’s medical records. Armed with all of this evidence, Kevin and Rashal discussed options with Dorothy’s quarrelsome family. Eventually, everyone agreed that the agents designated under the

various powers of attorney would resign, Charlie would voluntarily withdraw her petition for guardianship and another of Dorothy’s adult children would step in as guardian with a court order stipulating that there should be transparency among Dorothy’s children. This would protect Dorothy from careless neglect.

When asked about her experience Rashal said, “CVLS gave me the opportunity to interact with the judge and other courtroom personnel, while also reminding me how to relay legal information in a digestible way. I enjoyed working with the family one on one and understanding various, and sometimes conflicting, points of view. This was my first CVLS case and I know it won’t be my last.”

Meanwhile, Kevin Fritz recruited another new attorney, Kyla Miller, to work with him as GAL on Renee’s case. Before Renee was diagnosed with early onset dementia, she and her sister, Shirley, would often bicker. Their mother was Renee’s primary caregiver until she died in 2015. Shirley and a close friend stepped in to ensure that Renee would receive adequate care at a nursing home and Shirley visited regularly. Shirley also eventually filed a petition to become Renee’s guardian.

Kevin and Kyla visited Renee, interviewed Shirley and other friends and service providers at the nursing home and wrote a report recommending that Shirley’s petition for guardianship be granted. However, at the first court date, Renee’s daughter showed up and told the judge that she wanted to be appointed her mother’s guardian. The daughter remembered her mother bickering with Shirley and was uncomfortable with Shirley becoming guardian. Communication among the family members was strained, but upon further investigation Kevin and Kyla discovered that the family all had the same goals for Renee’s care.

Kyla knew that the something had to be done for Renee and there was room for the family to work together. “It became apparent during my first visit with Renee that she was in need of a guardian to make day-to-day decisions about her care. With the help of [Director of CVLS’ Adult GAL Program] Susan DeCostanza and Kevin Fritz, I was able to evaluate both petitions for guardianship, and ultimately help the petitioners to come to an agreement that allows both parties to remain involved in her care and decision-making.”

NEW EVICTION ORDER ISSUED

Mandatory in all eviction cases

The Illinois Supreme Court forms committee has revised Section 4 of the Eviction Order. The revised version is now available on the Supreme Court's Website at <http://goo.gl/kW9Y1H>.

Everyone is asked to use the new version (E-O 3500.2) moving forward.

PUBLICATION UPDATE

Exciting news

There is now only one publication desk on the 8th floor of the Daley Center. The 12th floor desk has been closed. For cases in all division/departments, please use the 8th floor desk to publish.

The law bulletin will now accept clsp's as payment. You no longer need to file a motion for free publication, and submit an order for free publication. This avoids an irritating step in the previous process.

Now for the very exciting - we can now publish by email. You can send an email to publicnotice@lawbulletinmedia.com with an attached affidavit for service by publication and a clsp. They will send you a response that acknowledges your publication request and gives publication and default dates. You can also do this if it needs to be paid by sending credit card info if necessary.

E-FILING DRAMA CONTINUES

Mandatory e-filing pushed to June 30, 2018

The Illinois Supreme Court has approved a six-month extension of mandatory e-filing in response to a petition from Circuit Clerk Dorothy Brown. The petition was made due to information received by the Circuit Clerk's office that the some central functions of the new Odyssey EFileL system would not be ready for operation by January 1, the high court's original deadline.

The Supreme Court will allow paper filing as an alternative to e-filing until June 30, 2018. Until then, the Cook County Circuit Clerk's Office will continue to charge transaction fees to filers through the office's stand-alone e-filing vendor.

Brown's spokesperson said the clerk's office appreciates that the Supreme Court "understands the extremely complex and voluminous case management system" used in Cook

county.

The high court delayed the e-filing requirement for all Cook County civil cases through its order, *In re: Mandatory Electronic Filing in Civil Cases, M.R. 18368*, available online at <http://goo.gl/iJy2hU>.

In 2017

2,431 Active Volunteers



Closed Cases **3,292**

Child Rep
159 Children Given a Voice

GAL for Minors
642 Children Had an Advocate

GAL for Adults
657 Parents and Siblings Not Forgotten

Access to Justice
336 Cook County Residents Represented in Court

Panel Referral Program
2,414 People Connected with Skilled Attorneys

Your generosity makes a difference.

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

PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT
cvls.org/donate

The logo for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services is a black, stylized shape resembling a speech bubble or a document page with a folded corner. The text "CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters inside the shape.

**CHICAGO
VOLUNTEER
LEGAL
SERVICES**

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