



# Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight.

## Upcoming Events

**June 25** - GAL for Minors Training - 12:00 p.m., CVLS Office

**June 27** - GAL for Adults Training - 12:00 p.m., CVLS Office

**June 27** - Seminar: Child Representative Training - 1:30 p.m., CVLS Office

**July 10** - New Volunteer Orientation - 12:15 p.m., CVLS Office

**July 11** - Seminar: Inexpensive Ways to Preserve a Digital Footprint for Litigation - 12:15 p.m., CVLS Office



Terry (left) and volunteer Eric Vernsten (right) were pleased with the results

## MOVING PAPERS MISHAP

### Housing Subsidy Restored by CVLS Volunteer

Terry depends on his housing subsidy to afford rent in Cook County. In 2015, Terry's landlord lost the apartment to foreclosure, forcing Terry to find a new place. To transfer the subsidy, Terry had to get "moving papers" from the housing authority and submit them to prospective landlords.

Unfortunately for Terry, because of housing authority rules, he could only pick up and submit one set of papers at a time, and it all had to be done in person. Terry estimates he contacted over 100 landlords throughout his search - meaning he physically picked up and submitted moving papers over 100 times.

Terry heard the typical chorus of landlord responses to low-income renters: "your credit score is too low," "we don't take Section 8 here," etc. The foreclosure concluded before Terry could find a place, and he started experiencing homelessness. The housing authority then decided he was taking too long to find a new place and terminated his participation in the subsidy program without a hearing.

Terry filed a pro se complaint for judicial review, and Judge Valderrama referred him to CVLS through the Access to Justice Program. CVLS argued the housing authority's termination

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## SUBMIT YOUR TENT FORMS ASAP!

Summer is in full swing and so is the planning for everyone's favorite event, Race Judicata®! Don't be left without a home for the big night. Make sure that your office submits your tent rental form if you haven't already. All event forms can be downloaded online at:

<http://cvls.org/judicata>

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

*Schiff*  
**Hardin**  
**SIDLEY**

## New FREE CLE seminars available online!

### How to Handle a Workers' Compensation Case

Howard Ankin, Ankin Law Office LLC  
1.00 hrs CLE credit  
<https://bit.ly/2WsUIUf>

### The Jaded Lawyer

Joseph Scally, Lawyers' Assistance  
Program  
1.00 hrs Professional Responsibility MCLE  
credit - Mental Health and Substance  
Abuse  
<https://bit.ly/31mZ5OW>

### Nuts and Bolts of Decedent's Estates

Meghan Terry Davis, Hoogendoorn &  
Talbot  
1.00 hrs CLE credit  
<https://bit.ly/2WSrWLW>

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

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violated Terry's due process rights. The judge agreed and ordered the agency to conduct an administrative hearing.

CVLS placed the case with volunteer Eric Vernsten. Eric helped Terry explain how diligent he had been in his search and that circumstances beyond his control got in the way of a new apartment. At the end of the hearing, the housing authority agreed to reissue Terry's voucher!

## eFileIL OUTAGE

In preparation of the civil filing code and fee changes required as a result of Public Act 100-987, pursuant to the Clerks of Courts Act (705 ILCS 105/27.1b) effective July 1, 2019, eFileIL will be unavailable statewide starting on Friday, June 28, 2019 at 12:00 PM CDT through Monday, July 1, 2019 at 8:00 AM CDT.

Filers will be unable to submit documents to the court through eFileIL during this time, but will be permitted to file paper documents locally at the appropriate clerk's office during regular business hours without needing to submit a Certificate of Exemption from e-Filing form.

For questions related to Public Act 100-987, please contact your local Circuit Court Clerk.

## REPEAT BUSINESS

### Senior's Home Saved by Her "Go To" Pro Bono Attorney



John Donahue

Senior Lucille took out a reverse mortgage against her home and fell behind on the homeowner's insurance, breaching the loan agreement. Facing foreclosure, Lucille reached out to her "go to" pro bono attorney, John Donahue.

Lucille and John have quite the history together. She is John's longest-standing CVLS client. He first helped her receive survivor's benefits from the Veteran's Administration in 1996. Since then, he has worked with her on everything from debit card issues, lost auto title, life insurance, and even unwanted magazine subscriptions.

In this case, Lucille had found a free housing counselor on her own and applied for a grant through the Illinois Housing Development Authority's (IHDA) Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) Program. However, the counselor thought HHF was not available for Lucille's specific issue and would not submit the application.

CVLS knew the program was available and got IHDA to clarify the issue. John coordinated with Lucille throughout the process, explaining the full impact of the HHF application. With CVLS' expertise and John's guidance, Lucille's grant application was submitted and approved, bringing the loan current.

A few weeks later, John sent this kind e-mail to everyone involved:

*"I know you work on cases like [Lucille's] all the time, but I can't tell you how much all your help has meant to her. As with so many low-income seniors, she is always afraid; afraid for her safety, afraid that she'll lose her home, afraid of just about everything. But today she sounded better than she has in a very long time. So, thanks for everything you have done for Lucille and for everything you do every day for so many people like her."*

## FRIGHTENING CEMETARY

Attorney Works “Graveyard Shift” to Solve Client’s Unique Issue



*Marc Primack, Dressler Peters*

As a Partner at Dressler Peters, Marc Primack works with businesses on a variety of legal issues. But in late 2016, while volunteering at the CVLS Jewish United Fund (JUF) clinic, Marc was approached by a client named Ed who had a unique legal issue.

Ed had long complained about the conditions of gravesites at a local cemetery for some relatives and other persons he knew. He tried by himself to talk to cemetery staff about the gravesites and although he had some success, Ed could not quite get through. Marc listened to Ed’s complaints about the conditions at the cemetery and agreed to help. He reviewed cemetery contract forms, which obligated cemetery staff to maintain the gravesites to a certain standard. Along with Ed, Marc corresponded and met with the attorney for the cemetery.

Marc eventually worked out a settlement. The cemetery owners agreed to restore the problematic gravesites to the level of care originally arranged for them. As part of the agreement, the gravesites were to continue to be maintained, and Ed was encouraged to deal directly with cemetery staff if he had any issues in the future.

Although the stakes were different from Marc’s usual cases, Marc still handled Ed’s legal issue with care and empathy. Well done, Marc!

## THE COST OF BEING A GOOD DAUGHTER

Family Health Emergency Causes Financial Chaos



*Barbara Mallon, Mallon & Johnson*

Last year, Adriana was a typical college student. She was living away from home in an off-campus apartment with three roommates. In December 2018, she found out that her mother’s health had deteriorated. Adriana made the difficult choice to leave college and return home to Chicago to take care of her mother and help with finances at home.

Adriana paid rent for her apartment in January 2019 but stopped in February. She tried her best to sublet the apartment but could not find anyone to take over the rest of her lease. In February 2019, she sought help from the CVLS Clinic at Old St. Mary’s (OSM) Church.

Barbara Mallon of Mallon & Johnson, long-time CVLS volunteer, agreed to stand by Adriana’s side. She contacted the landlord’s agent and was told the lease could not be canceled. Barbara informed Adriana of all her options, including walking away, the consequences of doing so, and the possibility of settlement.

Acting as part-attorney, part-mediator, Barbara was able to negotiate a settlement between Adriana and the landlord’s agent. They agreed to allow Adriana to pay her outstanding rent in a reasonable monthly amount over the next two years.

Although not a particularly flashy case, Adriana’s issue was settled fairly and reasonably with the help of a volunteer attorney. (For a flashier story, check out our Facebook post about Barbara’s expert handling of her first-ever Adult Guardianship case!)

## NEW JUDGE IN 1806

### Guardianship of Minors

CVLS welcomes the Honorable Stephanie Miller to the bench in 1806, the courtroom where all Cook County minor guardianship cases are heard. Judge Miller is a former 6th Subcircuit judge of the Cook County Judicial Circuit Court in Illinois. She attended Northwestern University and Loyola University School of Law. Her professional experience includes working as an Assistant Publican Guardian and Assistant State’s Attorney. In January 2017, she was appointed to the seat previously held by Robert Lopez Cepero. She has been affiliated with the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago, Hispanic Lawyers’ Association of Illinois, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Women’s Bar Association of Illinois, Westbucktown



*Honorable Stephanie Miller*

Neighborhood Association, Maplewood and Lucy Flowers Park Advisory Council, and Friends of Goethe School. Judge Miller has already appointed CVLS in a number of new cases and we look forward to working with her.



# RACE JUDICATA

## 2019 TENT RENTAL FORM

SIZE	SPONSORS	NON-SPONSORS	AMOUNT DUE
Small	\$549	\$799	\$
Large	\$949	\$1199	\$

Please let us know how many tables and chairs you will need.  
 Defaults: Small - 2 tables 8 chairs / Large - 3 tables 12 chairs  
 Tables and chairs are included in listed tent rental prices.

My company cannot rent a tent at this time, but we would like to make a contribution to CVLS.

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

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Requests

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Company / Team Name (as printed on tent sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Email

Check Enclosed  Please Invoice

.....  
 VISA  American Express  MasterCard

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on card (if different from above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date CVV Code Signature

Please return this form to:  
 Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, Attn: Matt Pollock  
 33 N. Dearborn St, Ste 400, Chicago, IL 60602  
 or F | 312-332-1460 E | mnp@cvls.org

Space is limited. Availability is based on order that we receive the tent rental forms.



# SEP 12, 2019

[www.cvl.org/JUDICATA](http://www.cvl.org/JUDICATA)

## MEDALIST

大成 DENTONS

MAYER • BROWN

WINSTON  
& STRAWN  
LLP

## FIRM

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

Schiff  
Hardin SIDLEY

## UNDERWRITERS

BMO  Wealth Management

 Bryce  
Downey  
& Lenkov LLC

 MAJOR, LINDSEY & AFRICA

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## CAPTAIN

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Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP • Keating Law Offices, P.C. • King & Spalding • Oasis Financial • Seyfarth Shaw LLP • Thompson Coburn LLP

## BOARD NEWS

### Governing and Junior Boards Hold Elections

Congratulations to **Laverne Horton**, BDO USA, **Michelle Marek Figueiredo**, Paul Hastings LLP, **Julie Marion**, Latham & Watkins, **Patrick McKey**, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, **Katherine Dennis Nye**, Neal Gerber & Eisenberg LLP, and **Matthew Schiltz**. Each were reelected for another three-year term on CVLS' Board of Directors. Thank you to retiring board members **Edwin Del Hierro** and **Deborah Bone** for their service.

**Andy Miller**, Locke Lord, **Elizabeth Riddle**, JPMorgan Chase Bank, **Elaine Sit**, Law Office of Elaine Sit, and **Christine Skoczylas**, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, were elected to serve their first terms on the board. Andy Miller previously served a three-year term on the Junior Board.



Left to right: Andy Miller, Elizabeth Riddle, Elaine Sit, Christine Skoczylas

The Junior Board of CVLS has reelected **Jonathan Adair**, Kirkland & Ellis, **Patrick Maloney**, Barack Ferrazzano, and **Shunte Goss**, Law Office of Shunte Goss, to serve a second three-year term. We thank our departing members **Elaina Emerik Andrade**, **Melissa Caballero**, **Megan Fitzpatrick**, **Andy Miller**, and **Josh Sigman** for all of their hard work.

Three new Junior board members have joined our ranks this year and we are very excited for you to meet them. Please welcome to the CVLS family **Demitria Hamilton**, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, **Melissa Hewitt**, Baker & Hostetler LLP, and **Phillip Rutherford**, Rutherford Law PC.

Welcome to all new members, and thank you again to those who are retiring. Your dedication to CVLS and pro bono is an inspiration.



Left to right: Demitria Hamilton, Melissa Hewitt, Phillip Rutherford

## 2019 LEADERSHIP

The Board of Directors held officer elections on May 22 with the following results:

Kimberly Halvorsen - President  
Dan Winters - VP Finance  
Michelle Marek Figueiredo - VP Development  
Eddie Houlihan - VP Client Services  
Bryan Webster - Secretary

Jordan Heinz - Executive Committee  
Julie Marion - Executive Committee  
Joe Seder - Executive Committee

Congratulations to everyone and thank you for all that you do.



Diana Karnes, Kennedy's CMK  
Junior Board Chair

Diana Karnes, Kennedy's CMK, has become the latest in a long line of fine leadership as Chair of the Junior Board. Diana joined the Junior Board in 2012 and has been a key member ever since. We are looking forward to seeing where she leads our Junior Board in 2019.

Nick Niles, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, moves up to Second Chair, and Benjamin Nellans, Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, has been promoted to Third Chair of the Junior Board.

Congratulations everyone!

# Law & Disorder

Chicago Comes out to Honor Pro Bono Winners

CVLS hosted our sixth annual comedy show and volunteer recognition event on May 30th. Comedian Michael Palascak had the room in stitches as attendees gathered at River Roast to celebrate the accomplishments of Chicago's diverse legal community and the impact we had in 2018. Thank you to everyone who came out to show their support for CVLS and our wonderful volunteers who make it all happen. With all of your help, CVLS was able to net over \$33k to further our mission of providing top-quality legal aid to the most vulnerable citizens of our great city.



Daniel Hernandez, Walczak Hernandez, P.C.



## 2019 AWARD WINNERS

### Court of Honor

Hon. Alison C. Conlon  
Municipal Department

### Partner Award

Association of Foreclosure  
Defense Attorneys (AFDA)

### Partner Award

Latham & Watkins LLP

### Honor Roll

Caitlin M. Ajax  
Christopher J. Cassella  
J. Anthony Clark  
Miles V. Cohen  
LeNor Dandridge  
James T. Derico, Jr.  
Brion W. Doherty  
Angelica M. Felix  
Matthew T. Furton  
Thomas J. Gabryszewski  
David M. Gotzh  
Kevin P. Hanbury  
Daniel R. Hernandez  
Victoria P. Karl  
Paulina Kowalska  
Jennifer L. Lavin  
David P. Lindner  
Nicole C. Lopez  
Robin Ann Nowicki  
Brandi N. Pratt  
Damon R. Ritenhouse  
Olivia A. Sarmas  
Elaine C. Sit  
Jami Schlafer  
Justin R. Storer  
Neha Tannan  
Hubert O. Thompson  
Kristen Valcik  
George P. Vasios  
Lara K. Wagner

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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