

CHICAGO  
VOLUNTEER  
LEGAL  
SERVICES

# Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight.

## Upcoming Events

**March 29** - General Foreclosure Defense, 12:15 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

**March 30** - What You Need To Know About Child Support: Highlights From the 2017 Income Shares Act, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**April 13** - Preparing Immigration Hardship Cases, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**April 20** - Mindfulness and the Law, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**April 27** - Reverse Mortgage Litigation, 12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

**May 3** - Law & Disorder, 5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**May 10** - Home Loan Modifications, 12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

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



## Minor GAL Program in the News

**Rebekah Rashidfarokhi**, Director of CVLS' Minor GAL Program, recently appeared on CBS Chicago to shed light on the growing requests for help she has received from the immigrant community in recent weeks.

The new administration's focus on immigration, and its controversial executive orders, have created confusion and fear among Chicago's undocumented immigrants and the community groups helping them. Parents want to know how they can protect their American-born children if the parents are detained and deported.

Acknowledging the concern, Rebekah told CBS Chicago reporter Dana Kozlov that there are types of guardianships that allow parents to give guardianship of their children to a relative or friend

that will only take effect if a parent is picked up by immigration.

Since that piece aired, CVLS has been inundated with requests for help from potential clients and for trainings from community organizations and groups that work with the immigrant community. As a result, CVLS is coordinating with other non-profit organizations, the Archdiocese, bar associations, and community leaders to bring presentations and direct legal assistance to immigrant communities. Stay tuned for more information on these upcoming volunteer opportunities.

To see the CBS spot visit [cvls.org/article/rebekah-sheds-light-immigration-questions-recent-cbs-news-piece](http://cvls.org/article/rebekah-sheds-light-immigration-questions-recent-cbs-news-piece).

## Early bird discount ending soon

There's only a few days left to receive Early Bird discounts on sponsorship and tent rentals for this year's Race Judicata®.

Requests received before March 24 will be eligible for a 10% discount on sponsorships and a \$50 discount on tent rentals. Sponsors can save even more by purchasing additional sponsorships for our other signature events, Law & Disorder and Vino + Van Gogh.

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

## Volunteer Spotlight: Chris Moss

After 25 years volunteering at CVLS, **Chris Moss** is ready for semi-retirement. He's stepping down from his roles as the co-chair of the Jane Addams Legal Clinic and as a paralegal with Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, but he'll still help with the occasional intake and *Race Judicata*, he says.

In 1991 Chris volunteered at the Lakeview Citizens Council, performing intakes and conducting initial interviews. His firm, Gardner, Carton & Douglas, sponsored the neighborhood clinic with CVLS and Chris was asked to help out. "I really enjoyed it and just stayed on, and stayed on, and stayed on."

Later, Chris volunteered with the Jane Addams Legal Clinic at its first location at Broadway and Belmont. As the paralegal intake volunteer at the clinic, he was on the front lines, which he liked, and the work helped him in his career outside of the legal clinic. Chris followed the clinic when it moved from its north side neighborhood to the Loop.

Because he is a paralegal, and not an attorney, Chris is not professionally obligated to do pro bono work. "It just goes back to helping out the clients, making a difference and giving back to the community. I'm not required to do that the way doctors and attorneys are, but I helped out and enjoyed it and stuck with it." Working in a legal clinic also gave a welcome contrast to his day job serving corporate clients. "It's nice to sit across the table from a client with a face and I like the idea of helping someone who might be struggling to stay in their apartment."

Chris has received CVLS' Distinguished Service award multiple times and served on the Board of Directors. Our sincere gratitude goes out to Chris for his many years of hard work. His skills and talents have been vital in helping attorneys at the clinic and the clients obtain equal access to justice. Thank you, Chris!

## Jeff Bunn

**Jeff Bunn** did not expect that his career as a litigator with Latimer LeVay Fyock would include advocating for dedicated quiet spaces in the office, but somehow this is how it turned out. After 30 years litigating business, intellectual property and probate cases, Jeff discovered many personal, professional and health-related benefits that come with a mindfulness practice.

"This whole mindfulness craze is really relevant to the legal community," Jeff says. "There's a whole lot of stress and strain, some of it is kind of social, some of it is professional. The stakes are high." Practicing mindfulness gives Jeff the opportunity to clear his mind and come back to the table with a fresh perspective, which has made him a more effective lawyer.

Before a tense phone call, contested motion or court, Jeff used to prepare right up until the very last minute. Today the five minutes he takes to clear his mind before an important meeting is an important part of his preparation process. "There's always going to be time for preparation, and that probably comes with the turf. If you're in the legal business, you're kind of wired to over prepare, but you don't have to be that way all the time."

In his role as chair of the CBA's Committee on Mindfulness and the Law, Jeff shares these benefits with other legal professionals. "Mindfulness is not religion-based. It is not some alternative wisdom. It's certainly not contrary to traditional business practices. It is an effective legal and business tool, consistent with notions of professional civility. Most importantly, mindfulness is supported by evidence-based science."

For Jeff, mindfulness is three things. "Simple. Secular. Scientific."

## Mary Ann Smith

Longtime volunteer **Mary Ann Smith** was recognized by Chicago Lawyer for the 30 years she's spent running a CVLS neighborhood legal clinic, first in Englewood, now in the South Loop. In 1988 the Catholic Archdiocese paired parishes in more affluent neighborhoods, with less affluent parishes in neighboring community to share resources. Mary Ann's church, St. Thomas the Apostle in Hyde Park, was paired with St. Basil Visitation Church in Englewood. Mary Ann, a member of St. Thomas, worked with CVLS to set up a community legal clinic. The clinic recently moved to Old St. Mary's Church in the South Loop. The clinic has grown for more than 30 years and now includes 24 attorneys and 6 intake workers who handle adoptions, guardianships, wills, divorces, bankruptcies, housing disputes, consumer complaints and debt-collection defenses for neighborhood residents.

Mary Ann's talent, energy, drive and leadership have been key components that led to the clinic's growth and success. Great work, Mary Ann!

Read the Chicago Lawyer piece at [www.chicagolawyer.com/Articles/2017/02/In-summation-Feb17.aspx](http://www.chicagolawyer.com/Articles/2017/02/In-summation-Feb17.aspx).

*Jeff will host a mindfulness CLE in our offices, 33 N. Dearborn St. #400, Thursday, April 20, 12:15-1:15 p.m. As our world seems to be more stressed out than ever before, this program, which qualifies for Professional Responsibility CLE credit,\* may provide you with a sense of peace.*

*\* Approval pending*

*Please see the full CLE seminar description on page 6 for more information.*

## CVLS Elects New Advisory Board of Directors

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services' Board of Directors appointed 15 new members to its Advisory Board in February. All but three members have served on CVLS' governing board in the past, eight as president. **Christopher N. Skey**, a member of the law firm Clark Hill and a former CVLS governing board president, will serve as the Advisory Board's Chair.

Advisory Board members act as ambassadors of CVLS by working with the Board of Directors and CVLS management to build, maintain, and strengthen relationships with law firms, legal entities, the judiciary and other related groups and organizations. Board members also ensure the continuity and success of CVLS by providing strategic guidance, advice and support to the organization, its Board of Directors, and management.

<b>CHRISTOPHER N. SKEY</b> Chair Clark Hill PLC	<b>WILLIAM N. KRUCKS</b> Freeborn & Peters, LLP
<b>REENA R. BAJOWALA</b> Jenner & Block LLP	<b>JEFFREY L. LONDON</b> Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
<b>MARY ANN BECKER</b> Loyola University School of Law	<b>SANDY L. MORRIS</b> Chico & Nunes
<b>JARED R. CLOUD</b> McDermott Will & Emery LLP	<b>KRISTI L. NELSON</b> Gair Eberhard Nelson Dedinas Ltd
<b>RANDY J. CURATO</b> ALAS, Inc.	<b>TIMOTHY G. NICKELS</b> Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP
<b>PAUL E. DENGEL</b> Schiff Hardin LLP	<b>JEANNE L. NOWACZEWSKI</b> Urban Education Institute
<b>F. ELLEN DUFF</b> Retired, Winston & Strawn LLP	<b>STEPHEN R. PATTON</b> City of Chicago, Department of Law
<b>DAVID J. GILMARTIN</b> The Joint Commission	<b>ANN M. SPILLANE</b> Illinois Attorney General's Office
<b>DAVID M. GOLDBABER</b> Wilson Elser	<b>CONSTANTINE L. TRELA, JR.</b> Sidley Austin LLP
<b>AUSTIN L. HIRSCH</b> Reed Smith LLP	<b>BRENT W. VINCENT</b> Bryan Cave LLP
Ex Officio <b>STEVE RAMINIAC</b> President, CVLS Board of Directors Law Offices of Steve Raminiak, P.C.	<b>BRION W. DOHERTY</b> Vice-President, Development, CVLS Board of Directors Motherway & Napleton, LLP



## Tony & John:

Anthony bought a run-down three-flat in 2015, planning to rent out two units while he and his 13-year-old daughter lived in the third. But because the building needed to be rehabbed first, he obtained a \$29,000 remodeling loan and hired a contractor. The remodeling contract detailed the work to be performed, estimated costs and completion deadline. It also provided for a down payment of \$15,000, issued by the bank directly to the contractor.

Within a few months, the contractor began spending less and less time on the house and became difficult to reach. The quality of his work deteriorated. When it became clear the contractor would not meet the completion deadline, Tony notified the bank, sent the contractor a letter terminating the project, had an appraiser inspect the property and changed the locks to preserve its condition.

However, Tony could not access the rest of his loan money unless he agreed to arbitrate the issue with the contractor. In addition, he wanted to recover some funds, because, as verified by the appraisal, he had overpaid considering the value of the completed work. Tony arranged and paid for arbitration, but he wanted an attorney to represent him at the hearing. Luckily for him, **John A. Aramanda**, a new associate at Quarles & Brady, was looking for trial experience and agreed to represent Tony. John scored a big win. The arbitrator found that Tony is entitled to \$10,778.88—which is the amount of money the contractor received minus the value of the work he performed plus interest, fees and costs. A great win for Tony and for John. Thank you to Quarles partner and former CVLS board member **Steven Hunter**, for asking us to help John get some litigation experience.

# Case Notes

## Joanna & Katie:

Joanna's young daughter suffers from Type 1 diabetes, a condition that is notoriously difficult to manage in children. When Joanna took her daughter to the hospital during a dangerous drop in her blood sugar, the hospital reported her to DCFS for medical neglect. In the course of the investigation several medical professionals told DCFS that Joanna likely did nothing wrong and that blood sugar levels and insulin could drop or spike for no reason.

When DCFS upheld the finding Joanna filed a pro se complaint for judicial review. The court referred her to CVLS. PILI-Fellow **Katherine Rhoades** of Kirkland and Ellis took the case, sifting through hundreds of pages of testimony and medical records. With the help of fellow Kirkland attorneys **Jessica Fricke** and **Nader Boulos**, Katie wrote a forceful brief outlining DCFS's errors. Soon after the brief was filed, DCFS voluntarily expunged the indication and the case was dismissed as moot. Joanna was thrilled.

## Michael, Thomas & Marcie:

Michael and Thomas lived with their paternal grandparents for most of their lives as their parents, heroin addicts, were unable to care for them. The grandparents were eventually appointed guardians by the court. Mom got sober and filed a petition to discharge the guardians when her sons were about 4 and 6 years old. Initially, Mom thought that because she was no longer using, she should have her sons in her care immediately. With the patient work of **Marcie Hefler**, the Court-Appointed CVLS GAL in this matter, Mom got over her disappointment that her petition was not granted immediately. Over a period of six months, Mom worked hard to build a parental relationship with her sons and a co-parenting relationship with the boys' grandparents.

Mom called the boys every day, communicated with their school, worked with the boys on homework and created a plan, including academic and counseling support, for the anticipated transition into her home and care. When guardians went on vacation, Mom was able to step in and get the boys to school and meet all of their daily needs for the duration of the grandparents' trip. Finally, the court agreed to discharge the guardians and just after Christmas, the guardians and mom successfully transitioned Thomas and Michael into their Mom's care. The grandparents maintain a close relationship with the boys and are thrilled that they can now move into a grandparenting relationship with the kids instead of a parenting relationship.



Congratulations to volunteer **Salvador Lopez**, who recently married **Natali Rutiaga**. The two honeymooned in Australia, where they met the charming koala pictured above.

*We love highlighting the excellent work our volunteers do. If you've successfully handled a difficult case, come up with a creative solution, or heard some nice words from a grateful client, please let Development Associate Lindsay Welbers know by sending an email to [lwelbers@cvls.org](mailto:lwelbers@cvls.org) to be highlighted in a future newsletter.*



# LAW & Disorder

## STANDUP COMEDY / VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Wednesday, May 3 2017, 5:30 PM

Venue Six10, 610 S. Michigan Ave.

Visit [cvls.org/lawanddisorder](http://cvls.org/lawanddisorder) for tickets and sponsorship information

## Laugh along with us and honor great CVLS volunteers!

Join us at Law & Disorder where Pat McGann, House MC of Zanies Comedy Club, will tickle your funny bone as you support the good works of our volunteers.

Join us as we honor **Richard A. Campbell**, a partner at Mayer Brown, with the Court of Honor Award for the Probate Court Assistance Program (PCAP) in which pro bono practitioners represent low income petitioners in decedent's estate cases. In addition to cre-

ating and then coordinating the program with the court and CVLS, Richard recruited his friends and colleagues and gets them to take these cases pro bono. Thanks to Richard's efforts, scores of clients have received expert representation in their decedent's estate cases.

CVLS is also honoring the **Chicago Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers' Association (AILA)** as its Pro Bono Partner. AILA's experi-

enced immigration attorneys have staffed a monthly clinic for low income immigrants at CVLS for 21 years. In addition, their attorneys are always on call to help with immigration issues and questions and work with CVLS on other immigration initiatives. These days, their attorneys are busy helping undocumented and other immigrants affected by the administration's recent executive orders and coordinating training and oversight of volunteer attorneys.

# 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.

**March 29, 12:15 p.m.-2:15 p.m.**  
**General Foreclosure Defense**

*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.*

**March 30, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.,**  
**What You Need To Know About Child Support: Highlights From the 2017 Income Shares Act**

*Effective July 1, 2017, Illinois will join the majority of states in adopting the "income shares" model for calculating child support. Stephanie Tang, of Kogut & Wilson, L.L.C. and Olga Allen, of Hurst Robin & Kay, LLC will explain the major changes to the law and take participants through a sample hypothetical to understand the law's application.*

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

**April 13, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.,**  
**Preparing Immigration Hardship Cases**

*This presentation will focus on the nuts and bolts of putting together immigration hardship cases for waivers and other cases that require a showing of hardship to qualifying relatives, such as waivers for unlawful presence or criminal convictions, and non-LPR cancellation of removal. The focus will be less on the underlying legal*

*situation and more on the factual elements of what constitutes hardship and how to work with clients and their families to identify and document hardships after the need and eligibility for a hardship waiver has been established. Attorney Gina Reynolds will present the basics of preparing an immigration hardship case.*

**April 20, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.,**  
**Mindfulness and the Law**

*Jeff Bunn, chair of the CBA's Committee on Mindfulness and the Law, will share the benefits for lawyers of practicing mindfulness in their practices and in their lives. "As our world seems to be more stressed out than ever before, this program, which qualifies for Professional Responsibility CLE credit\*, may provide you with a sense of peace. \*Approval pending*

**April 27, 12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.,**  
**Reverse Mortgage Litigation**

*CVLS has seen a drastic increase in foreclosures concerning a reverse mortgage. We've seen cases involving mortgage scams, phony defaults, and a variety of servicing abuses. In this training, Staff Attorney Gabriel Borges and JMLS Law Professor Dennis Smith will review the basics of reverse mortgages, types of loan defaults, loss mitigation options, and potential claims and defenses.*

**May 3, 5:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.**  
**Law & Disorder**

*Venue Six10, 610 S. Michigan Ave. Laugh along with us as we celebrate the spirit of pro bono and the volunteers that*

*make it possible at our third Law and Disorder fundraiser and award ceremony. Pat McGann, MC of Zanies Comedy Club, will present awards and tickle funny bones, while we honor the extraordinary work our volunteers do to make equal access to justice accessible to all. Visit [cvls.org/lawanddisorder](http://cvls.org/lawanddisorder) for tickets and sponsorship information.*

**May 10, 12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.,**  
**Home Loan Modifications**

*There have been many changes in the world of mortgage modifications these last few months: some have expired, some have changed, and some are brand-new. Staff Attorney Ian Turnipseed will explain, step-by-step, how a borrower applies for a loan modification and the review process. Ian will also survey the programs that are over and the financial guidelines for the new programs.*

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

*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.*

## Changes to Guardianship Assistance Desk for Minors

Effective immediately, the Guardianship Assistance Desk for Minors at 69 W. Washington, Suite 1020 will help individuals file pro se petitions to appoint standby guardians. Standby guardianships are appropriate for parents who wish to make arrangements for a guardian to care for their children that would go in effect at a later date. Once approved by the court, the standby guardianship takes effect if and when a specific "precipitating event" described in the guardianship order, happens. While it can be used by undocumented parents worried about being deported, please note that, at present, the court will not grant guardianship, including standby guardianship, to anyone without legal status in the United States.

The help desk can also provide information on short-term guardianship, which is a private party document that does not require court involvement. Contact Rebekah Rashidfarokhi, [arr@cvls.org](mailto:arr@cvls.org), for more information.

# 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.

## Preparing 2016 Income Taxes

1 hour CLE credit

*Larry Krupp interprets and explain the latest version of the tax code. He will discuss changes and concerns that can affect your business, your personal finances or those of your clients.*

[cvls.org/seminar/preparing-2016-income-taxes](http://cvls.org/seminar/preparing-2016-income-taxes)

## Spotting Inadmissibility Issues in Immigration Cases

1.5 hours CLE credit

*New to immigration law and unsure if your client is admissible or don't even know what that means? Learn about common inadmissibility issues, how to spot them, and when waivers apply.*

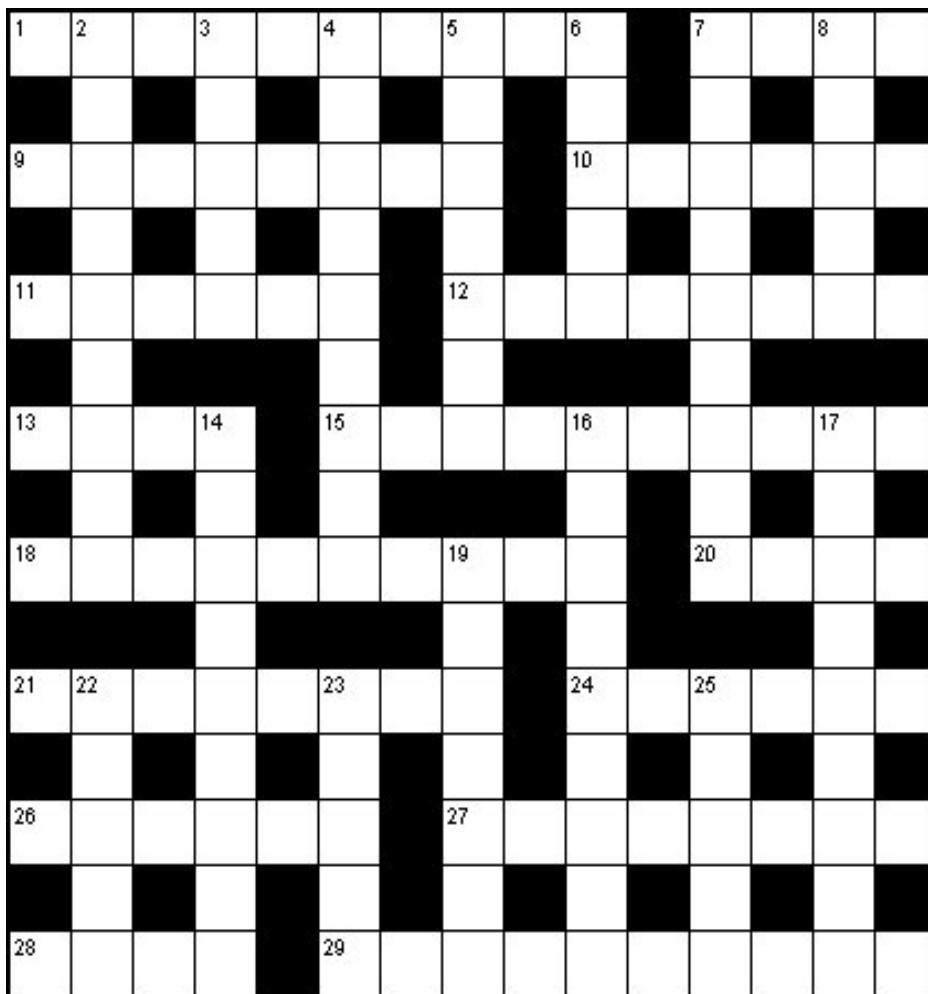
[cvls.org/seminar/spotting-inadmissibility-issues-immigration-cases](http://cvls.org/seminar/spotting-inadmissibility-issues-immigration-cases)

## Deconstructing the Role of a "Care-Manager"

1 hour CLE credit

*Howard Berk, Executive Director of the Illinois Disability Association, deconstructs the role of a "care-manager." He covers the where, when, why and how of care-managers, a.k.a. case-managers, within the context of guardianships. This seminar and the related CLE series is part of a collaboration between CVLS and the Illinois Disability Association to expand and enhance pro bono services to low-income persons with disabilities and their guardians.*

[cvls.org/seminar/deconstructing-role-care-manager](http://cvls.org/seminar/deconstructing-role-care-manager)



### ACROSS

- 1 Rush around in old car, to find escaped criminal in Oz (10)
- 7 A disease singular to sponge (4)
- 9 English is almost never spoken poetically in Telford, for example (8)
- 10 Rotter is in modern art emporium (6)
- 11 Copper into Turner gets depression (6)
- 12 I am unpretentious? No (8)
- 13 Clothe with part of a corset (4)
- 15 Get mean about bird call (10)
- 18 Monster horribly present on the waves (3,7)
- 20 Who should really have written Diary of a Nobody? (4)
- 21 See 4
- 24 Enjoy the flavour (6)
- 26 Composer of Semiramide and La Mer? No (6)
- 27 As were the leftovers a man ate, being overdrawn? (8)
- 28 Scolded infant without a trace of leniency (4)
- 29 4,21's Mount is irregular cube next to a generation symbol (missing centrepiece) (10)

### DOWN

- 2 Auntie hit boiling asphalt (9)
- 3 Told of journey to university to find poem (5)
- 4,21 The king of 7, this general axed threat strategically (9,3,5)
- 5 Not, we hear, a problem for 4,21 (9)
- 6 Province is to take up weapons again, changing sides (5)
- 7 4,21's country; a wine capital erected around the last stages of 300 (as it's written) (9)
- 8 Aeolian and Doric, say, in 12 (5)
- 14 Quarrelled in Hell over a sin (9)
- 16 Outside port finally, make fast a vessel – one that's engine driven (5,4)
- 17 Some garment to stitch, it's said – or more than one (9)
- 19 One goes into troubled centre, having some guts (7)
- 22 Man 'as old Erica (5)
- 23 Residential area in upwardly mobile part of Bruxelles (5)
- 25 Student priest in Guanaco (5)

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.

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