

CHICAGO
VOLUNTEER
LEGAL
SERVICES

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight.

Upcoming Events

April 18 - GAL for Minors Training,
noon-2 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 - Loan Modifications,
12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

May 11 - GAL for Minors Training,
noon-2 p.m.

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

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



Guardianship clinic connects hundreds of families with attorneys

Thank you to everyone who came to our Guardianship Planning for Undocumented Immigrants clinic! CVLS staff and volunteers helped hundreds of undocumented immigrants create safety plans for their US-born children, on Sunday, March 12.

Recent changes to federal immigration policy have created an immediate need for pro bono services within Chicago's undocumented immigrant population. In response, CVLS held a one-stop attorney training and clinic to help undocumented immigrants who fear deportation or detention create safety plans for their families, using statutory short-term guardianships. While we hope our clients never have to use these documents, they provide families with a viable legal plan and a sense of security. Short-term guardianships do not require a court appearance, take effect upon the occurrence of a specified event such as deportation, and can be executed or revoked at any time.

Over 1000 people came to Immaculate Conception Parish in Brighton Park to hear **Rebekah Rashidfarokhi**, Director of CVLS' Guardian ad Litem for Minors Program, speak about guardianships. Fifty pro bono attorneys, with the help of more than 50 other volunteers, helped about 200 families by providing legal advice and assistance in executing short-term guardianship forms.

We are deeply grateful to **Immaculate Conception Parish** and **Fr. Manuel Dorantes** for hosting us and providing snacks and logistical help; to **Kirkland & Ellis** for making thousands of copies of our materials; to the **National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)**, **Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO)** and the **American Immigration Lawyers' Association (AILA)** for their support.

More chances to help!

We are delighted by the enthusiastic response of our volunteers, and have scheduled two more Guardianship Planning for Immigrant Clinics.

April 23, 2:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Mercy Parish
4432 N Troy St.

May 6, noon
Mexican Consulate
204 S. Ashland Ave.

If you would like to volunteer for one of these or future immigration legal clinic, please contact **Rebekah Azar Rashidfarokhi** (arr@cvls.org)

Volunteer Spotlight: Susan Malter

In January, after the new administration issued an executive order on immigration, hundreds of Chicago's attorneys stood up to defend the rights of immigrants entering the country. CVLS volunteer **Susan Malter** was one of those hundreds who went to O'Hare to help travelers from countries affected by the new rules.

Organized by the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR), the Travelers Assistance Project (TAP) provides practical help to travelers from countries affected by the new administration's immigration guidelines. A roster of 1400 volunteer attorneys and interpreters work every day from 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. at O'Hare International Airport.

"Now we are asking travelers, who are interested in sharing, to tell us what their experience was coming through customs," Susan said. "I think there's an interest in making it more transparent, with more set guidelines."

Susan has handled a wide variety of cases with CVLS. Although this is her first foray into immigration law, she previously worked on adoption, adult guardianship, eviction (on both the landlord and tenant's sides), social security, and consumer fraud cases. Thank you to Susan, and the volunteer attorneys who are acting as watchdogs to ensure that immigrants' rights are protected and that they have access to legal information immediately upon entering the country.

Yi-Ping Chang

Outside of law school, **Yi-Ping Chang** had not taken an immigration case before attending CVLS' Guardianship Planning for Undocumented Immigrants legal clinic on Sunday, March 12 at Immaculate Conception Church on Chicago's Southwest side.

A finance attorney with Mayer Brown, Yi-Ping who counseled and helped undocumented immigrants create safety plans for their children using statutory short term guardianships, was one of 50 volunteer attorneys, who helped that day.

"I think in my day job there's a lot of explaining to the client what the options are and putting those options into a contract, which is sort of what we did at this clinic."

He was surprised by the number of people who came to the one-day clinic looking for help, but not at all surprised to see how nervous his clients were, especially about their children. "I think that's quite universal, people are worried about what will happen to their kids."

Of the six families Yi-Ping saw that afternoon, one family in particular stands out. One mother and her son and daughter came to create a framework that would allow the son to become guardian of his sister, if their mother were to be detained or deported. "He took it very, very seriously," Yi-Ping says. "He wanted to protect his sister, so he was hanging onto every word. It was a special moment."

Yi-Ping says working pro bono helps him in his work with Mayer Brown, by putting a different perspective on the work and the client. "I think it allows you to connect with people in a different way than you would in your day job. I represent financial institutions and having the chance to work with individuals and help to solve their very personal legal problems is very rewarding and has many lessons I can take into my full time practice."

Call for Volunteers: Child Reps needed!

CVLS is looking for volunteers to serve as Child Representatives. This is a unique opportunity to represent the best interests of children who are in the middle of contentious litigation.

CVLS' Child Rep Program was created in 2014 to address the need for pro bono attorneys to represent low income children in contested family law cases. Upon being appointed as Child Rep, CVLS performs a preliminary investigation of the parties, to provide volunteers with an appropriate starting point.

Child Reps investigate the issues and parties, recommend outside services when appropriate, negotiate with the parties and advocate for the child both in and out of court. CVLS Child Reps are advocates for children. They act as an independent, objective party, who sorts through conflicting information to recommend to the court how to meet the child's best interests.

Attorneys who have taken a Guardian Ad Litem for Minors case and want to do something similar in the Domestic Relations Division, or who just want more experience with family law are welcome to join this program, which in addition to valuable experience, offers attorneys an alternative way for attorneys to be included on the court's paid Child Representative panel. CVLS volunteers would be eligible for appointments on fee cases after completing only three CVLS Child Rep cases. Our volunteers are given step-by-step support through the life of the case, including sample pleadings and online training materials.

Contact Staff Attorney **Rob Zielinski**, rzielinski@cvls.org, or Child Rep Coordinator **Miriam Araya**, maraya@cvls.org, for more information about taking a Child Rep case.



Clockwise from top:

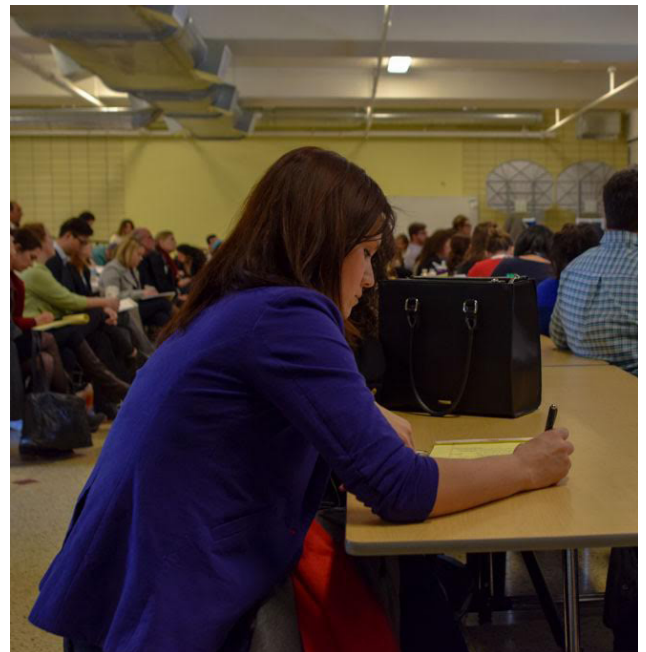
Volunteer attorney Patrick DePoy and a translator consult with a couple.

Volunteer Eric Sutton spoke with staff attorney Debi Filipovich and Susan DeCostanza, Director GAL for Adults, at the end of the clinic.

Families inside Immaculate Conception Parish on Chicago's Southwest side listen to Rebekah Rashid-farokhi, Director GAL for Minors, speak about guardianships.

A boy distracts himself with a coloring book while his mother listens to the presentation.

A volunteer attorney takes notes before meeting with clients.





CVLS opposes cutting vital funding for civil legal aid

The new administration recently proposed eliminating funding for the Legal Services Corporation in its 2018 budget. CVLS strongly opposes this as it would decimate our sister organizations across Illinois, Legal Assistance Foundation, Prairie State Legal Services and Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, and hurt the tens of thousands of low-income clients they serve.

The LSC was established over 50 years ago as part of the War on Poverty. Today, it continues to promise that in America anyone can obtain justice – not just those who can afford it. Gutting civil legal aid would devastate families and vulnerable people in Illinois, especially in rural areas where obtaining free or low cost legal help is already a struggle. Historically, LSC has seen wide bipartisan support for one simple reason – Americans believe in justice for all.

Millions of Americans cannot afford legal help when they are facing life-changing situations. Civil legal aid helps veterans obtain earned benefits, families facing wrongful evictions, people trapped in abusive relationships and parents seeking custody of their children. It provides Americans with the tools they need to protect their families, homes and health.

Case Notes

Omar & Alfonso

59-year-old Alfonso has an intellectual disability and functions at the level of about a 5-year-old. For the first 57 years of his life, Alfonso's mother was an attentive and careful caregiver. When she passed away two years ago, he remained in the home he shared with her for his entire life. Alfonso's four adult siblings took turns staying at the house with him, making sure that he was safe and that his basic needs were met. However, the siblings were unable to financially maintain their mother's home and the bank foreclosed on the property.

Alfonso's sister, Theresa, petitioned to become Alfonso's guardian so that she would have authority to move him into a supported living environment. CVLS was appointed as GAL in the matter, and Justice Entrepreneurs Project (JEP) attorney, **Michael Oquendo**, took the case. When Michael visited Alfonso in December, Alfonso told Michael that his mother had not passed away, but was just out on errands and would return shortly. Some of the other siblings stopped by during the GAL's visit and expressed their gratitude that Theresa was willing to step in as legal guardian for their brother. The siblings worked together and Theresa told CVLS that she doesn't know how her mother did it on her own all those years.

With Michael's recommendation, the court appointed Theresa as guardian at the beginning of February. In Alfonso's mind, his mom is still alive, and the transition out of the home he shared with her for more than 55 years will be a difficult one. But with the help of CVLS GAL Michael the family has one less thing to worry about.

Marla, Ricardo and Peter:

Last January, Marla's tenant called her and said water was gushing out of a wall and running all over

the apartment. Marla rushed to the apartment and learned that the pipes had frozen. She got to work fixing the plumbing and repairing the property, while the tenant moved into a motel. While the tenant was away, the apartment was broken into and vandalized. Marla decided to secure the apartment, but was sued by the tenant for an illegal lockout.

The judge referred Marla to CVLS through the Access to Justice Program, and CVLS placed the case with volunteers **Riccardo Di Monte** and **Peter M. Follenweider**, of Di Monte & Lizak. Ricardo and Peter pushed back hard, secured a favorable settlement agreement, and got the case dismissed.

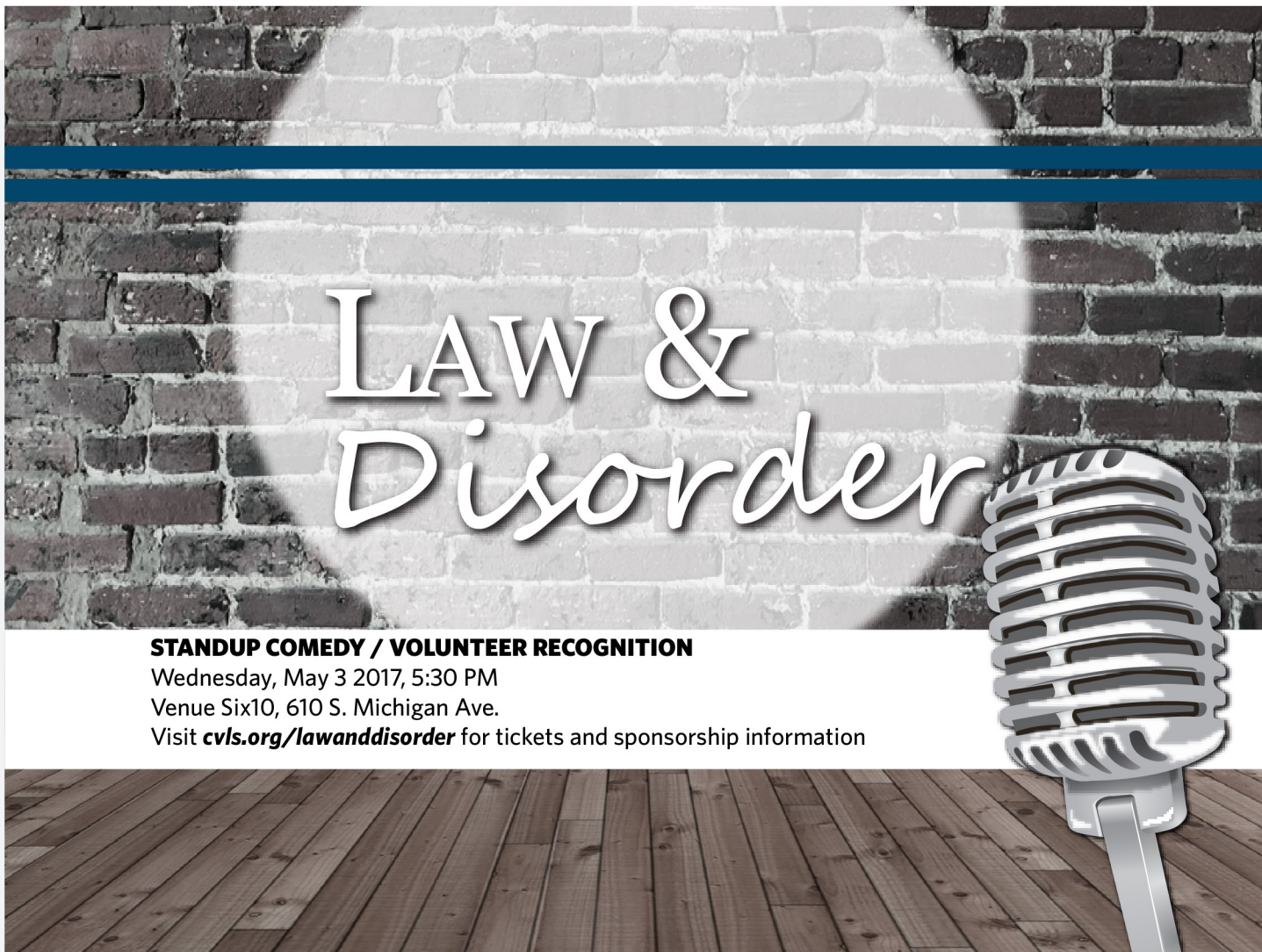
"It was a scary situation for me because it was all new and very stressful," says Marla, "but Riccardo and Peter explained everything to me and walked me through the case step by step. They were really great." Well done Riccardo and Peter!

John, Kisia & Kevin:

John and Kisia's home was being foreclosed upon. Despite several attempts on their own they were unable to get the bank to work with them. Their housing counselor recommended they reach out to CVLS.

CVLS Volunteer **Kevin Erker** of Quantitative Risk Management, Inc., thought he could save John and Kisia's home after looking at the bank's previous denials, and finding proof that his clients had been treated unfairly. Kevin went to bat for John and Kisia and made sure they felt they were treated like high-priority clients.

During the mediation proceedings Kevin's knowledge, assertiveness and professional demeanor helped him obtain a positive outcome for his clients. John and Kisia wrote to say "Considering the opposing attorney's verbal behavior toward us that day at mediation, had we not been so adequately represented, we do not believe we could have had such a positive outcome." Great work, Kevin!



STANDUP COMEDY / VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Wednesday, May 3 2017, 5:30 PM

Venue Six10, 610 S. Michigan Ave.

Visit 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 Mayer Brown partner **Richard A. Campbell**, with the Court of Honor Award for his innovative Probate Court Assistance Program (PCAP) in which pro bono practitioners represent low income petitioners in decedent's estate cases. In addition

to creating 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 experienced 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, to register for an upcoming seminar, or for more information.

April 18 – GAL for Minors Training, noon-2 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.

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

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 23, Guardianship Planning for Undocumented Immigrants, 2:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 4432 N Troy St. Recent changes to federal immigration policy have created an immediate need for pro bono services within Chicago's undocumented immigrant population. This training and clinic will help undocumented immigrants fearing deportation or detention create safety plans for their families using statutory short-term guardianships. While we hope our clients never have to use these documents, they provide families with a viable legal plan and a sense of security. Short-term guardianships do not require a court appearance, take effect upon the occurrence of a specified event such as deportation, and can be executed or revoked at any time. For more information please contact Rebekah Azar Rashidfarokhi (arr@cvls.org).

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

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

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 fourth 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 for tickets and sponsorship information.

May 6, Guardianship Planning for Undocumented Immigrants, noon

Mexican Consulate, 204 S. Ashland Ave Recent changes to federal immigration policy have created an immediate need for pro bono services within Chicago's undocumented immigrant population. This training and clinic will help undocumented immigrants fearing deportation or detention create safety plans for their families using statutory short-term guardianships. While we hope our clients never have to use these documents, they provide families with a viable legal plan and a sense of security. Short-term guardianships do not require a court appearance, take effect upon the occurrence of a specified event such as deportation, and can be executed or revoked at any time. For more information please contact Rebekah Azar Rashidfarokhi (arr@cvls.org).

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

There have been many recent changes in the world of mortgage modifications: 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 have ended and the financial guidelines for new programs.

May 11 – GAL for Minors Training, noon-2 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

U Visa and the Latest Trends

1 hour CLE credit

There is an annual 10,000 U Visa cap each fiscal year, with over 150,604 U Visa applications pending. Once the U Visa application is approved the applicant is placed on a waiting list. What benefits can you receive while on the waiting list? How do you apply for employment authorization while you are on the waiting list? This seminar will answer these questions and more.

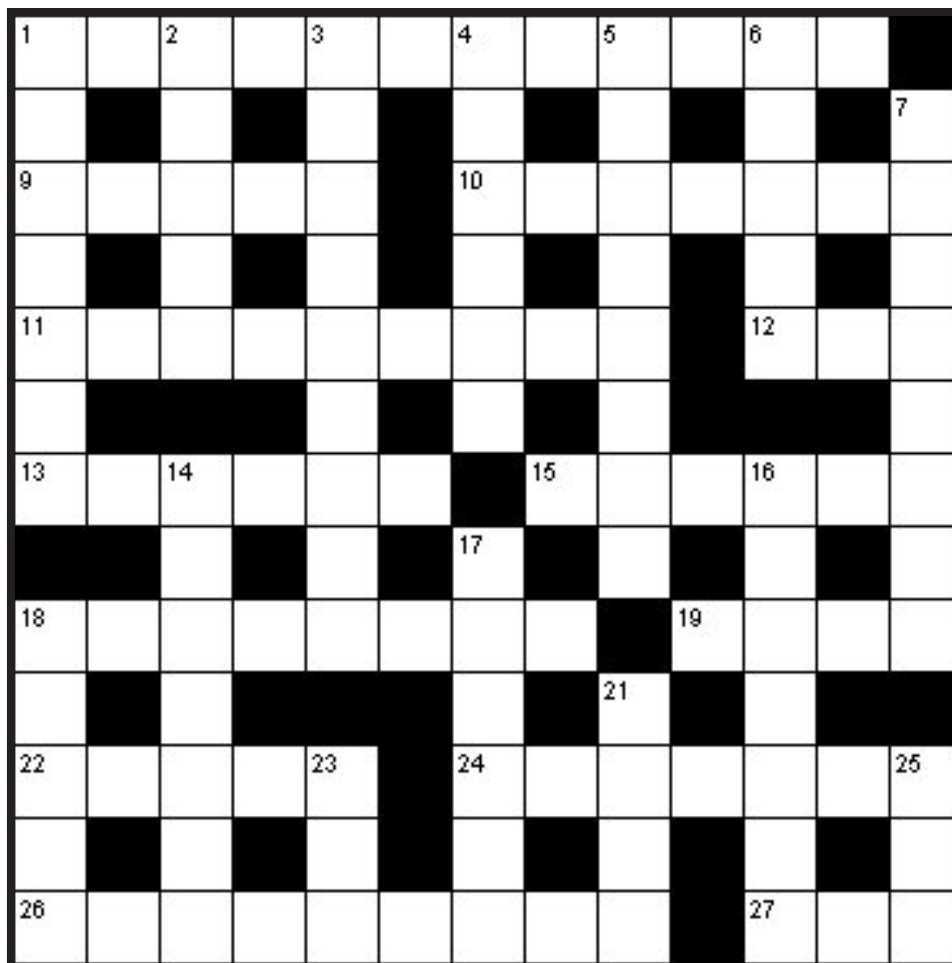
cvls.org/seminar/u-visa-and-latest-trends

How to Represent a Detained Immigration Client in a Bond Hearing

1.25 hours CLE credit

Attorneys from the Chicago Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers' Association (AILA) train attorneys to represent detained immigrants in bond hearings through a new partnership between CVLS, the National Immigrant Justice Center, and the Chicago Chapter of AILA. This is a short-term pro bono opportunity, as attorneys commit to a limited scope representation of the client for the purposes of the bond hearing only. All cases are heard in downtown Chicago. All cases are pre-screened and eligible for an immigration bond. Guidance and mentorship are available during the case. All are welcome—no prior immigration experience required. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Rebekah Rashidfarokhi at arr@cvls.org.

cvls.org/seminar/how-represent-detained-immigration-client-bond-hearing



ACROSS

- 1 Blooming tooth robber! You have the legal right to fine him (12)
- 9 Dostoyevsky's Prince Myshkin gives one girl books (5)
- 10 Bursting in and bursting out, we hear (9)
- 11 Completed dub on soundtrack extraordinarily quickly (9)
- 12 Recent time lost makes one tardier (5)
- 13 Some metal boxes get returned, flattened at the edges (6)
- 15 Radioactive metal found in protein by one university microbiologist originally (8)
- 18 Composer who brought Spanish language to Italy? (8)
- 19 It helps produce groovy music (6)
- 22 Required by one sitting president at meeting (5)
- 24 Topless sex on Prague television initially bothered censor (9)
- 26 One who makes good money for his employers wouldn't be welcome at Lord's, perhaps (9)
- 27 Brad returns with a climber (5)
- 28 Repeatedly speak with East European corrupt dialect (6-6)

DOWN

- 1 Bespectacled Corin somehow finds a S. American flower (7)
- 2 Brief moment for a lyricist? (5)
- 3 Give advance payment to South African province before delivery (9)
- 4 Non-Spanish speaker in America has to travel around to make a call (6)
- 5 Version of Christe eleison primarily for those with unorthodox creed (8)
- 6 Banish former huntsman out East (5)
- 7 Defective hearing result of putting one in the wind (8)
- 8 Worker is on the edge in Northern Ireland (6)
- 14 Reluctant Marion undressed for seducer (8)
- 16 Raised capital to support one theatre with production of Lear, among others (5,4)
- 17 Eskimo shaman finds English king in capital city, decapitated (8)
- 18 Commander in chief to the Queen has love for orator (6)
- 20 Leak incomplete cross-reference (7)
- 21 A mineral source extremely thin on the ground (6)
- 23 Dance graduate leaves cake (5)
- 25 A shortage? What a shame (5)

Visit cvls.org/news for the solution to this month's crossword puzzle.

Set by Alberich via 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
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