



# Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Because equal access to justice is everyone's fight.

## Upcoming Events

**June 20** - New Volunteer Orientation; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**June 28** - Seminar: How Psychological Evaluations Can Assist the Court; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**July 4** - CVLS Closed

**July 11** - Seminar: Writing the Referral; 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**August 25** - Race Judicata® Registration Fee Increase

**September 7** - Race Judicata® Online Registration Closes; 4:00 p.m.

**September 13** - Race Judicata®; 6:30 p.m.



Laurie A. Martin Montplaisir, Robbins, Salomon, & Patt, Ltd.

## FIGHTING FIRE WITH ESQUIRE

Volunteer attorney comes to the rescue

It all started in 2010. Tamara had just moved into an apartment building provided by a senior housing program. She was offered a family unit to rent in a fully accessible facility. This was essential for Tamara's 16-year-old son who suffers from severe mental and physical disabilities.

A single mother with three children, Tamara called her Rogers Park apartment home for eight years. Family photos lined the dressers in the bedrooms, and the hallways were dotted with bright and colorful posters for her youngest child to learn the alphabet. Other than the medical equipment needed to treat her son, Tamara kept the unit clean, warm, and welcoming for almost a decade.

On an evening in March of last year, Tamara lit a candle in her bedroom and went to the kitchen to prepare a meal for her family. The candle flame set Tamara's mattress on fire. Distracted by her cooking, Tamara didn't immediately notice the fire alarm.

Once she saw and smelled smoke, Tamara instinctively grabbed an extinguisher and put out the fire. She hurried her children outside to safety, carrying her disabled teenage son in her arms. Thankfully, neither Tamara nor her children were hurt.

But that's not where the story ends.

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## RACE JUDICATA®

Don't wait until the last minute to start planning your firm's Race Judicata team. This year's event will be held on September 13th so please visit [www.cvls.org/judicata](http://www.cvls.org/judicata) to get started.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

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## New FREE CLE seminars available online!

### **Administrative Review Actions**

*Matthew Hulstein, CVLS*  
1.00 hour CLE credit  
<https://goo.gl/PKavRK>

### **Inventories and Accounts for Minors & Disabled**

*Steve Raminiak, Law Offices of Steve Raminiak*  
1.00 hour CLE credit  
<https://goo.gl/sY4Esi>

### **Post I-601A: Helping your Clients Navigate Consular Processing to Become Residents**

*Alix Strunk of Minsky, McCormick & Hallagan, P.C.*  
1.00 hour CLE credit  
<https://goo.gl/yYVmE7>

### **Recognizing, Understanding, and Referring a Colleague in Need**

*Jeff Bunn, Vice Chair, LAP Illinois Task Force on Lawyer Wellbeing*  
1.00 hour Professional Responsibility CLE credit - Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
<https://goo.gl/TajFqM>

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

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Tamara's family was safe, but her housing was in jeopardy. Firefighters broke a window to get access to the unit, and they could not turn off the sprinklers. Tamara's apartment had serious damage. As a result, the housing program told Tamara that they were going to terminate her lease because the apartment had been "rendered untenable" by the fire. Unable to communicate with building management on her own about how they came to that decision, Tamara came to CVLS for help. At our Old St. Mary's neighborhood clinic, she met with volunteer attorney, Laurie Montplaisir.

**"The difference between having an attorney and representing oneself is monumental."**

Laurie, moved by Tamara's story, challenged the housing agency on its decision. She disputed the cause for termination and explained that Tamara had the right to request reasonable accommodations for her disabled son under federal law.

Under the guidance of Supervising Attorney Matt Hulstein, Laurie kept the pressure on management, and they eventually relented. Tamara was able to stay, and the housing provider has promised to make all of the necessary repairs.

The difference between having an attorney and representing oneself is monumental. If not for Laurie, Tamara and her three children would be homeless. Her story illustrates the power of pro bono - having an attorney give a voice to someone who desperately needs one.

## TOWERS GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH TROY

While driving his mother around, Troy had no idea he would end up embroiled in a lawsuit for more than \$50,000. When Troy and his Mother were hit by a tow truck Troy's mother sued the tow truck company for her injuries. Brought in as a third party defendant, Troy needed legal counsel. He came to CVLS for help.

In came CVLS volunteer, Brian Kron. Brian was a fairly new attorney seeking experience and was moved by Troy's plight. Brian hit the ground running filing motions and holding depositions. Although Brian hoped mediation between the parties would succeed, he still prepared an answer and affirmative defenses. He also participated in discovery and fought for his client every step of the way. In the end, Brian's hard work paid off, and the case settled with no finding of liability for Troy.



*Brian Kron, CVLS Volunteer*

According to Brian, "CVLS gives me the opportunity to work with great clients who are enjoyable to serve. They are among my favorite clients and cases. Troy's case was a lot of fun and gave me the opportunity to participate in a Law Division case. There were several case management conference meetings, but I would have to say that the deposition aspects of the case were the most engaging and enjoyable."

Congrats, Brian and Troy! This case is just another example of why CVLS volunteers fight for our clients and access to justice!

## BOARD NEWS

### Governing and Junior Boards hold elections

Congratulations to **Mark Bina**, Quarles & Brady LLP, **Katie Miler Schilling**, Jones Day, **Joe Seder**, The Kenrich Group LLC, **Dan Winters**, and **Tom Woodrow**, Holland & Knight LLP. Each were reelected for another three-year term on CVLS' Board of Directors. Thank you to retiring board members **R. Cantrell Jones**, **Amanda Jones**, **Arnold Gough, Jr.**, **Brion Doherty**, **Rawn Reinhard**, and **Joseph Tylutki** for their service.

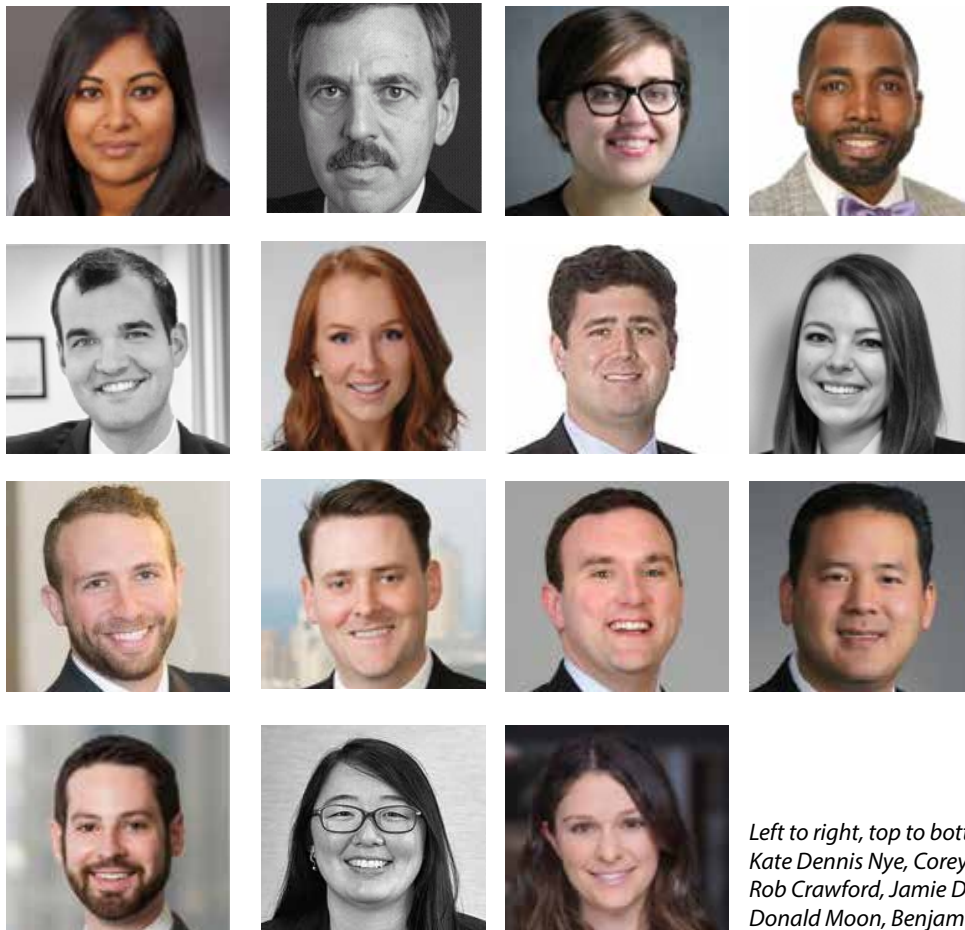
**Monique (Nikki) Bhargava**, Loeb & Loeb, **David Chernoff**, **Kate Dennis Nye**, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg, **Corey Sealy**, Dentons US, and **Matthew Schiltz**, Schiff Hardin, were elected to serve their first terms on the board. Both Nikki and Matthew previously served two three-year terms on our Junior Board, with Nikki acting as Chair before her retirement.

The Junior Board of CVLS has reelected **Matea Bozja**, Skadden Arps, **Janice Dantes**, **Megan Fitzpatrick**, Latham

& Watkins, and **Josh Sigman**, Helen Sigman and Associates, to serve a second three-year term. We thank our departing members **Adam Falkof**, **Amanda Weinberger**, **Eleni Katsoulis**, **Natalie LaPorta**, **Nicole Capretta**, **Stacey Dembo**, **Katherine Danial**, and **Sydney Schneider** for all of their hard work.

Ten new Junior Board members joined our ranks this year and we are very excited. Please welcome to the CVLS family **Laura Buchanan**, Quarles & Brady, **Rob Crawford**, Winston & Strawn, **Jamie Davis**, DLA Piper, **Sharief El-Gabri**, Jones Day, **Kyle Fahey**, Peck Bloom, **Michael Kuiken**, Walker Wilcox, **Donald Moon**, Mayer Brown, **Benjamin Nellans**, Segal McCambridge, **Malerie Roddy**, Schiff Hardin, and **Lindsay Scheidt**, Taxman Pollock.

Welcome 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, top to bottom: Monique Bhargava, David Chernoff, Kate Dennis Nye, Corey Sealy, Matthew Schiltz, Laura Buchanan, Rob Crawford, Jamie Davis, Sharief El-Gabri, Kyle Fahey, Michael Kuiken, Donald Moon, Benjamin Nellans, Malerie Roddy, Lindsay Scheidt

## NEW LEADERSHIP



Kimberly Halvorsen, Clifford Law Offices  
Governing Board President

**K**imberly Halvorsen, of Clifford Law Offices, has been elected as President of the Board of Directors, replacing Steve Raminiak, of The Law Offices of Steve Raminiak. Kim started with CVLS as an Adult GAL volunteer, became a founding member of our Junior Board in 2009, served as chair of the same board in 2011, and has graciously served on our Governing Board since 2015. We have loved working with her through the years and look forward to the future.



Lauren Sharkey, Latham & Watkins LLP  
Junior Board Chair

**L** Lauren Sharkey, of Latham & Watkins LLP, has become the latest in a long line of fine leadership as Chair of the Junior Board. Lauren joined the Junior Board in 2015 and has helped plan and execute some of the most successful fundraising events in Junior Board history.

Congratulations to both of them.

## APPELLATE WIN FOR CVLS!

### Contentious guardianship case goes the distance

Andre was thirteen years old and had been raised by his aunt and uncle since he could remember. Although originally an informal arrangement between aunt, uncle, and Andre's mother, the aunt and uncle needed to establish a legal relationship with Andre to better care for him. They petitioned for legal guardianship. When Andre's mother appeared in court and objected, CVLS was appointed as Guardian ad Litem (GAL) to advocate for Andre's best interests.

CVLS volunteer Greg Hawver stepped up to the plate to be Andre's GAL. Greg worked tirelessly to complete his investigation and to serve Andre's best interests. On his recommendation, the Court entered guardianship over the mother's objection. Months later, the mother petitioned to discharge the guardianship. Although Greg wanted to continue to work with the family, his own work and family demands did not allow him to continue on the case full-time. Greg turned to CVLS staff with questions on how to proceed.



Gregory P. Hawver, McGuire Woods LLP

CVLS is made up of thousands of volunteers supported by staff attorneys who are able to walk hand in hand through all CVLS cases. CVLS staff is ready and able to step in during situations like these. Minor GAL staff attorney, Debi Filipovich, began working

on the case with Greg. As it became more and more litigious, Debi and Greg tried to diffuse the situation. Soon it was clear that a trial was inevitable and the GALs saw the continued litigation taking a toll on Andre. Continuing to believe it was in Andre's best interests to stay with his Aunt and Uncle, Debi and Greg advocated for Andre to remain with them, filing Motions in Limine and GAL reports when necessary. At trial, Greg and Debi clarified issues for the court, objected where necessary, and argued for Andre's position. At the close of the mother's case, the GALs moved for a directed verdict noting that the mother had not met her burden. The Court agreed and the dust began to settle.

All seemed calm until CVLS received a notice of an expedited appeal. The appeal challenged both the finding that the mother had not met her burden and the GALs authority to act throughout the case. Debi handled the appeal with its shortened deadlines, toiling into the night and over weekends to prepare the best possible brief.

Success! The Appellate Court sided with the trial court on all issues, finding that the appellate court did not impede upon the GALs authority to act. It also clarified which minor guardianship laws applied. There was only one problem; the appellate court's opinion was not binding precedent.

Minor guardianship case law is limited because few cases are appealed, let alone published. CVLS represents hundreds of children each year in Cook County as court-appointed Guardian ad Litem. Over the past two years alone, CVLS has been appointed as GAL for 552 children in 379 Probate guardianship cases. Because we knew that Andre's situation is common and that courts would benefit from guidance with these types of cases, it was important that this order be published. So, Debi prepared and filed a Motion to Publish. Another success! The Appellate court withdrew its Rule 23 designation and published its Decision. This case started with one amazing volunteer who stepped up to represent a young boy and



Debi Filipovich, CVLS

ended with an Appellate case that will guide courts and help other children across Illinois!

## CVLS HONOR ROLL

### 2018 Honorees

Mamie A. Alexander  
Sebastien Angel  
Sarah E. Barr  
Marta Bednarz  
Raechel J. Bimmerle  
Daniel R. Brown  
Juan Calzonzi  
Alexas R. Collier  
Aon S. Hussain  
Eleni Katsoulis  
Leszek T. Lis  
Sandy L. Morris  
Corinne Seither Morrissey  
Nicholas D. O'Conner  
Ann R. Peters  
Elizabeth G. Peterson  
Ann E. Pille  
Katherine E. Rhoades  
Malerie M. Roddy  
Brian M. Roth  
Sharon L. Scott  
Ian M. Sherman  
Elaine C. Sit  
Hugh F. Smart  
Arek Trzaska  
Margaret L. Valerius

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JEANNINE BROADNAX



*Jeannine Broadnax, Strategic Tax & Estate Planning Strategies (S.T.E.P.S.)*

Jeannine Broadnax knows a thing or two about probate law. Since 2015, she has volunteered with CVLS as a Guardian ad Litem (“GAL”) for adults with disabilities, investigating family circumstances for the Court and helping the underserved access information and resources. Jeannine also represents CVLS clients as part of our new Probate Court Assistance Project (“PCAP”).

A woman named Florence was recently referred to CVLS through PCAP. Her husband had passed away without a will, and his estate consisted of the home they lived in. The home was encumbered by a mortgage in her husband’s name, and the mortgage company refused to communicate with Florence about the loan.

Florence first hired a private attorney, but the attorney withdrew before the estate was closed. Florence tried to represent herself, but she struggled and the Court referred her to PCAP. At CVLS, Jeannine listened to Florence’s legal problem and knew she could help her. Because of her experience, Jeannine quickly realized that the case was ready to close; it simply needed a few documents drafted and one court date to close the estate.

Jeannine successfully represented Florence before the Presiding Judge of the Cook County Probate Division. Pleased with the outcome of the case, the Presiding Judge encouraged the entire courtroom to participate in PCAP and take on pro bono cases.

**“One thing’s for sure - the good you put out always returns”**

Our mission at CVLS is to link dependable attorneys with low-income clients like Florence. Your goal as a volunteer may be to build experience or help the underserved, but Jeannine puts it best: “One thing’s for sure - the good you put out always returns.”

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## SHOUT OUT

CVLS would like to extend a special THANK YOU to our volunteer, David Gotzh, who recently has gone far beyond the call of duty in one of the most challenging minor guardianship cases CVLS has ever seen. David, an experienced family law attorney, calmly and expertly handled a bitterly contested matter, seeing his case through multiple appellate court proceedings, all while facing challenges and personal attacks that no pro bono attorney should have to experience. We cannot thank David enough for his expertise, patience, composure, and professionalism. Truly amazing job!



*David Gotzh, Law Office of David Gotzh*

## GOODBYE CHLOE

CVLS was lucky enough to have PILI intern, Chloe Sommers, work with us for both a summer and a fall session. She instantly fit in and quickly became a member of our family. Focusing mainly on family law and Child Representative cases, Chloe advocated tirelessly for her clients and proved herself to be a natural legal aid attorney. She graduated from Loyola University Chicago School of Law last month along with her husband, Ron, who received his M.D. They are now packing up and moving to Madison, Wisconsin so that Ron can start his residency. We are very proud of them both and wish them well with their next chapter in life. It will definitely be an exciting one. Congratulations Chloe and thank you very much for your hard work.



*Chloe Sommers and her husband Ron*

Chloe had this to say about her time as a legal advocate: “It has been an absolutely wonderful year. I’m not exaggerating when I say that this has been the most positive, challenging, inspiring job I have ever had. When reflecting on my time here, I’m overwhelmed at the support, levity, and encouragement you all have given me—in both big ways and small. I have been so inspired by your commitment to justice, and you have all been instrumental in my drive to become an advocate for those who need it most.”



# SEP 13, 2018

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

## MEDALIST



**Bloomberg Law**

**DykEMA**

**WINSTON & STRAWN LLP**

大成 DENTONS

MAYER • BROWN

## FIRM

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

**Schiff Hardin** **SIDLEY**

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BMO  Wealth Management

**BDL** Bryce Downey & Lenkov LLC

**MAJOR, LINDSEY & AFRICA**

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**B** BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

**COZEN O'CONNOR**

**Drinker Biddle**

**FRAGOMEN WORLDWIDE**

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**McGUIREWOODS**

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## CAPTAIN

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner • Jenner & Block • Jones Day • Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP • Keating Law Offices • Thompson Coburn



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

## THIS MONTH

### *Law & Disorder*

CVLS hosted our fourth annual comedy show and volunteer recognition event on May 17th.

Thank you to everyone who came out to show their support for CVLS and our wonderful volunteers who make it all happen.

## #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 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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