

Attention Bar Association Members – Hours volunteered with the Volunteer Lawyers Program of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland count toward the hours your firm pledged to the Cleveland Bar Association's *Our Commitment to Our Community* or the Cuyahoga County Bar Association.



Volunteer Lawyers Program

[v l p]

If you are a member of a law firm, check with your firm's Pro Bono Coordinator.

Visit www.lasclev.org to sign up!

thankyou.



Volunteer Lawyers Program [vlp]

Contact: Howard Strain
Jones Day Pro Bono Fellow

Phone: 216-687-1900

Fax: 216-687-0779

E-Mail: probono@lasclev.org

Address: Volunteer Lawyers Program
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
1223 West Sixth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Web: www.lasclev.org

Generous funding for VLP was provided by Jones Day and The Jones Day Foundation, The Bruening Foundation, The Murphy Family Foundation, The White Foundation and numerous individual donors.

where
need
and opportunity meet

vlp our focus

The need for free legal assistance to resolve problems of poverty is great. Legal assistance is often the critical factor that enables a family to remain sheltered, to receive earned wages, or to allow a family to stay together. The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland can serve only a fraction of the people who are financially eligible for services. Currently, Legal Aid serves approximately 8,500 clients a year – but must turn away more than 10,000 individuals. With the poverty rate in the Cleveland area at a record high, the need for pro bono legal assistance **is greater than ever.**

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

the difference

Making the Difference

In 2005, VLP served the legal needs of more than 1,400 clients/residents in the Cleveland area. Additionally, about 700 attorneys from more than 30 Cleveland law firms, both large and small, provided pro bono legal services to the different VLP programs in 2005. These attorneys' and firms' commitment was made possible by the ongoing support of the Cleveland Bar Association's *Our Commitment to our Community* initiative and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association.

Client Representation Programs

Law Firm Clinics

– Early evening clinics are held monthly at Legal Aid. Each firm provides attorneys to staff the clinic two or three times a year. Firms may share “ownership” of a clinic night. Cases are pre-screened by Legal Aid and are distributed to firm attorneys, after conflict checks, through the firm's pro bono coordinator.

Individual Attorney-Client Match

– This program is a continuation and expansion of the existing attorney-client match programs. VLP staff directly match pro bono clients with volunteer attorneys. This track is well suited for attorneys who want to volunteer individually and for clients who need more immediate representation.

Special Focus Programs

By Issue Area

– such as family and immigration.

By Client Group

– clinics at senior centers or for particular ethnic communities.

Community Legal Education

– including seminars and presentations to community members.

Brief Advice & Referral Programs

These bi-monthly drop-in advice and referral clinics provide Cleveland area residents with opportunities to discuss civil legal problems with volunteer attorneys to receive general advice, information, or referral for further representation. Clinics are held in neighborhood community centers. This option is ideal for attorneys who want to volunteer for a limited number of hours.

Become a Mentor

Experienced attorney “mentors” serve a crucial role. A mentor is a resource in a specific substantive area of law. The mentor volunteers for a particular clinic date and is available for consulting and strategizing at the clinic, as well as for consultation after the clinic.

Our success is their success!

the opportunity

Courtroom Experience

Serving in Client Representation Programs is a great way to gain in-court experience, whether at trial, in an administrative hearing, or other courtroom proceedings.

Broaden Legal Skills

In new areas of practice.

Expert Consultation and Advice

Experienced attorneys in various specialty areas will be available at all VLP clinics, as well as for post-clinic assistance.

Resource Materials

Substantive law resource materials are provided to all volunteer attorneys.

Professional Liability Insurance

Attorneys in the volunteer lawyers program are covered by The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's malpractice policy.

Enhances Your Image
in the Community.

Enhances Your Firm's Image
in the Community.

Know that
you ARE making a difference!

Types of Cases

Landlord/Tenant
Consumer
Employment
Probate
Public Benefits
Child Support
Immigration
Special Education
... and more.



The
Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

Visit www.lasclev.org to sign up!