NEW LIMITED SCOPE REPRESENTATION RULES
AFFIRM THE MVLC APPROACH – PART I

Since 2007, the Wisconsin Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys have explicitly allowed limited scope representation. In April 2014, the Wisconsin Supreme Court adopted a petition that expands limited scope representation rules. The new rules apply to representation commenced after January 1, 2015 and affirm the procedures already used at the MVLC.

A lawyer may limit the scope of representation if the limitation is reasonable under the circumstances and the client gives informed consent. SCR 20: 1.2(c).

How do clients at the MVLC give informed consent? – All clients at the MVLC give consent in writing before the volunteer attorney provides any brief legal advice. The volunteer law student is responsible for explaining the limitations of the Clinics’ services and the client provides a signature on the intake form indicating they have received the explanation of clinic services and have had an opportunity to ask questions. This procedure ensures the client understands and consents to the brief nature of the services available.

COALITION FOR ACCESS TO LEGAL RESOURCES (CALR) MEETING

The next CALR meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 12:00 PM at Marquette Law School. To celebrate the ABA’s National Pro Bono Celebration Week, we are treating you to lunch during this working meeting.

A presentation will be made by the Access to Justice Commission president, Jim Gramling, and State Bar staff to the Commission, Jeff Brown. Learn about the Commission’s work and current agenda. Jim and Jeff will also seek your thoughts about the use of non-attorney advocates and will lead a discussion on that topic.

Will you attend? Please RSVP so we are sure to have enough lunch, cake, and coffee for everyone!
WHAT IS BEYOND “BRIEF LEGAL ADVICE”?

The MVLC provide limited scope representation to clients because some areas of law are too complex for brief legal advice. The scope of the MVLC is limited by the Clinics’ liability insurance provider, which does not cover certain areas of law that include, but are not limited to, commercial transactions, complex litigation, school law, criminal law, and employment discrimination.

In addition to these limitations, volunteer attorneys should use their discretion at the clinics to determine whether the answer to a legal question goes beyond “brief legal advice.” If you sit down with a client and determine brief advice is not reasonable under the circumstances, inform the client our services are too brief for their complex matter. Lawyer Referral Information Service flyers for the state and local bar associations are available at all Clinic locations.

DOES THE LEFT HAND KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT HAND IS DOING?

WHEN DO WE REFER SOMEONE TO ANOTHER MVLC LOCATION?

Our goal is to provide someone with as much as we can in just one visit. When time permits, we strive to help someone complete a court form rather than refer them to another location for assistance with the form. But on occasion, a client will be better served at one MVLC location over another. What follows is a list of services to which you might refer a client if you are unable to fully answer their question yourself:

- **Child Support Attorneys** - Available alternating weeks at House of Peace and Hillview. Consult the clinic calendar for the precise scheduling.
- **Immigration Attorneys** - Available every week at Hillview.
- **Spanish Interpreters** - Available every week at Hillview.
- **Family Law Attorneys** - Available at the Milwaukee Justice Center on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 1:30 – 3:30 PM. This clinic is for Milwaukee County residents or cases only. Ask your clinic supervisor for a referral form when directing someone to this clinic.
- **Cultural & Language Specific Services in Hmong** - Offered at the House of Peace on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

SAVE THE DATE: PRO BONO COCKTAIL RECEPTION

**Pro Bono Cocktail Reception** on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Milwaukee Bar Association located at 424 E. Wells St. This free event is sponsored by the Milwaukee Bar Association, the State Bar of Wisconsin, and Quarles & Brady LLP. Students and attorneys are encouraged to attend for a great opportunity to connect with colleagues, learn about the new Wisconsin Attorney Pro Bono Society, and celebrate pro bono. To attend, email Britt Wegner at bwegner@milwbar.org.

QUICK TIP

MVLC has a full subscription to Books Unbound! The clinic supervisor can help you login to access the unlimited resources available at Books Unbound.
What is the Wisconsin Pro Bono Honor Society?

It is an annual recognition opportunity to recognize Wisconsin lawyers who are meeting the highest standards of pro bono service by providing at least 50 hours of qualifying pro bono legal services to benefit low income Wisconsin residents in 2014.

What pro bono services qualify?

Eligible pro bono legal services for this program means the direct provision of legal services without fee or expectation of fee, or at a substantially reduced fee to:

1. Persons of limited means;
2. Organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means; or
3. Charitable, religious, civic, community governmental, and educational organizations to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties, or public rights so long as a substantial majority of such services benefit persons of limited means or organizations that serve persons of limited means.

How will nominations be made?

Nominations can be made using a simple online form on the Access to Justice Commission’s website at http://wisatj.org/probonosociety.

What does inclusion in the Wisconsin Pro Bono Honor Society mean?

First, it doesn’t mean that you have to go to more meetings. Instead, an annual list of the honorees will be posted on the Access to Justice Commission and State Bar websites as well as in their publications. The Commission is working with other bar associations and local judges to organize local recognition events. We will also be contacting local media to highlight the pro bono contributions of lawyers in the yearly Pro Bono Honor Society.

Save the Date

The next attorney training session will be held on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 4:00 PM. One ethics credit for in-person attendees. Click here to register.

Legal Action’s Volunteer Lawyer Project (VLP) Training

In October and November, Legal Action of Wisconsin will host training sessions for volunteers active with either the VLP or MVLC. You will receive CLE credits for your participation. To learn more about Legal Action’s VLP, click here.

PRAISE FOR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY, RANDY NASH, AND LAW SCHOOL STUDENT, KASEY PARKS:

"Randy and Kasey were extremely helpful with their advice. We got the extra days we wanted and the landlord waived all possible damages and all monies owed to him. Thank you very much. Randy was professional, and Kasey, in my opinion, will make an exceptional lawyer. Again, thank you."

CLINIC RESOURCES

Are there any particular books or resources you would like us to add to the clinics? If so, click here to tell us.

Visit our Facebook page and add us on Twitter by clicking the images.