The MVLC only handles civil legal issues so if a criminal matter shows up at the clinic, make the appropriate referral. Clients should contact the Public Defender’s Office in Milwaukee County to determine if that office can represent them.

If the Public Defender’s Office cannot represent the client, they may apply to the court for the appointment of an attorney at county expense.

If they are not appointed an attorney by the court, they can contact the Milwaukee Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) at (414) 274-6768. The LRIS is a free over the phone referral service for anyone that has a legal question or is seeking to obtain legal counsel.

You sit down with a client at the clinic and their first words are, “My lawyer said I should…” You remember there is an ethics rule addressing communications with represented persons. But what was that rule exactly? Can you go forward and talk to this client? The short answer is yes. SCR Rule 20: 4.2 states, “In representing a client, a lawyer shall not communicate about the subject of the representation with a person the lawyer knows to be represented by another lawyer in the matter, unless the lawyer has the consent of the other lawyer or is authorized to do so by law or a court order.” At the clinic, if you sat down with someone and discovered they were seeking advice about a matter, were represented in that matter, and you already represented another party in that matter, this rule would require you to not communicate about the matter. (You would also have a conflict of interest). But the rule does not preclude communication with a represented person who is seeking advice from a lawyer who is not otherwise representing a client in the matter.

Take Away: Second opinions are allowed!
ATTORNEY AND STUDENT VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

DANIELLE WHITE
Attorney Danielle White is an MVLC volunteer at the VA and UCC locations. She says she is from Cincinnati, "but as a Navy brat I have lived all over." She received her B.A. from the University of Cincinnati and her J.D. from MULS, and currently practices at Rockwell Automation in corporate governance, corporate securities, and commercial law. To read Danielle’s interview, visit the volunteer spotlight section of the MVLC website here.

AIMEE McGINTY
Aimee McGinty is a graduate of Marquette University, where she received B.A. degrees in Anthropology and History. She is in her fourth part-time year at Marquette and will be graduating in December of 2015. She currently works for the Department of Corrections as well. In addition to being a member of the MVLC Student Advisory Board, Aimee is also a member of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and Association of Women in Law. In her spare time, Aimee enjoys taking her dog to the park, and spending time with family. She’s interested in environmental and land use law.

KATHERINE LEGEL
Katherine Legel is a third-year law student at Marquette University Law School. Katherine attended DePaul University in Chicago, where she received a Bachelor’s Degree in Graphic Design with a minor in Digital Cinema. At Marquette, Katherine is a Student Advisory Board member for the MVLC, a comment editor for the Marquette Law Review, and the President of Criminal Law Society. After graduation, Katherine will move to Washington D.C. to complete a clerkship with the Drug Enforcement Administration as part of the U.S. Department of Justice Honors Program.

PRAISE FOR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY, STEVE KRUZEL OF QUARLES & BRADY, AND LAW SCHOOL STUDENT, ADAM VANDERWERFF:
I’m very well satisfied with the services that were provided to me. I was helped so much, and in a way that I understood everything that was said to me. I’m very thankful to Steve and Adam for their services and taking their time to help me out with paperwork.