I NEED TO GET AN ANNULMENT. HOW DO I DO THAT?

We have only been married for two weeks. Can’t we just get this annulled? Wis. Stat sec. 763.313 sets forth several legal grounds for annulment, but unfortunately a short marriage is not one of the circumstances for a legal annulment.

Unlike a divorce action, which finds the marital relationship to be irretrievably broken and ends a valid marriage, an order of annulment ends a marriage that was not valid from the beginning. The grounds upon which an individual can bring an action for annulment include:

- One party lacking capacity to consent to the marriage;
- One party lacking physical capacity to consummate the marriage;
- One party was under age 18 and did not have parental consent; or,
- Marriage is prohibited by other state law. (Wis.Stat. 737.313 (1)(a-d); see statute for expanded definitions).

At this time, no Wisconsin state-created forms exist for an individual to file for an annulment and the current pro se forms for divorce/legal separation may not be altered to file for an annulment. If you encounter an individual seeking information about an annulment at the MVLC, a one-page resource is available to help explain the legal grounds. If a client seems likely to meet the grounds for annulment, they should be informed that legal assistance is necessary for such an action and provided appropriate referral information.

WILL REFERRAL HOW TO

When a client comes in looking to have a will drafted, power of attorney document drafted, or probate referral, an appropriate referral may be to Legal Action of Wisconsin’s Volunteer Lawyers Project as long as the client fits within the financial eligibility guidelines. The form (pictured to the left) should be filled out and given to the clinic supervisor to facilitate the intake for Legal Action.

Additional Volunteer Opportunities

The Volunteer Lawyers Project at Legal Action of Wisconsin provides:
- Free CLE training, including professional-responsibilities training every November
- Comprehensive manuals at no cost
- Experience in several areas of law
- Courtroom experience and client contact
- Malpractice insurance
- Flexibility – you may accept or reject cases as your schedule dictates
- Mentoring – work with attorneys who have years of hands-on experience with specific legal issues

Call the VLP Project Coordinator, Maggie Niebler-Brown, at (414) 278-7722 to get involved!

Save the Date

Coalition for Access to Legal Resources (CALR) Meeting: The next CALR meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 12:00 PM at the Catholic Charities. For more information about CALR or to join the mailing list, email mindy.schroeder@marquette.edu.

Upcoming MVLC Attorney Training Date:

Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 4:00 PM at Marquette Law School. Law firms interested in scheduling an MVLC training at their offices can email Angela Schultz at angela.schultz@marquette.edu. The MVLC attorney training covers MVLC policies and procedures, access to justice issues in Wisconsin, and limited scope representation ethics rules. The training has been approved for 1 ethics credit.
STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD AND ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHTS

JOHN CHRISTENSEN

Jon P. Christiansen is a retired partner at Foley & Lardner LLP, where he practiced Business Litigation & Dispute Resolution. He earned his J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of the Vanderbilt Law Review and was elected to the Order of the Coif. Prior to joining Foley & Lardner, he served as a judicial clerk for Judge Griffin B. Bell of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit. Mr. Christiansen has also been involved with several charitable and conservation groups throughout his 35-year career. To read John’s interview, visit the volunteer spotlight section of the MVLC website here.

JESSICA LOTHMAN

Originally from the Land of Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, Jessica Lothman now considers herself a local, albeit a global, citizen. Jessica earned her B.A. from Illinois Wesleyan University and M.Ed. from Marquette University. She is in her third year of the part-time program, an active MVLC Student Advisory Board member, and interested in immigration, educational and family law. When she is not sharpening her legal acumen in Eckstein, Jessica works as a Study Abroad Coordinator at Marquette and as a freelance photographer.

BILLY RYDER

Billy Ryder is a second-year law student at Marquette University Law School. He is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Guitar Performance. At Marquette, Billy is a member of both the Pro Bono Society and the Student Advisory Board for the MVLC. After law school, he is interested in practicing Creditor-Debtor law. In his spare time, Billy enjoys playing music and spending time with his dog, Bugsy.

PRAISE FOR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS, ANDREA DAVENPORT & BRITTANY LOPEZ NALEID, AND LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS, ANGELA SHIN & KRISTEN HOFFMAN:

Andrea and Brittany were FANTASTIC! Initially, Andrea heard our concerns and then asked Brittany to join the discussion and we felt so informed of the issues at hand when both women worked through it. I am so impressed with their helpfulness and genuine concern for our problem at hand. Thank you Andrea, Brittany, Angela, and Kristen! You were GREAT!!!