MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY & UPDATE

Since its initial “roll out” in September 2013, the Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic has been a unique and successful addition to the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics. Volunteers on the Mobile Legal Clinic have provided free legal advice and referral services through partnership with a number of community agencies including the Northside YMCAs, Agape Community Center, Milwaukee Public Libraries, Centro Hispano, St. John’s Lutheran Church, and Journey House. The Mobile Legal Clinic is honored to be a recipient of the inaugural Wisconsin Innovation Awards and the State Bar Legal Innovation Award, both in 2014.

Staffed by attorneys from Michael Best & Friedrich and a number of other MVLC attorney volunteers, the Mobile Legal Clinic has seen 103 people at 14 different clinics so far in 2015. As we work to increase the number of days and sites at which we provide services, additional volunteers will be needed. To get on board, please contact Angela Cunningham, MJC Legal Director (angela.cunningham@wiscourts.gov).

Save the Date

- **October 14 @ 12:00 p.m.: MVLC Attorney Training** at Marquette Law School. The training covers MVLC policies & procedures, access to justice issues in Wisconsin, and limited scope representation ethics rules (1 CLE ethics credit). [Register here.](#)
- **October 15 @ 12:10 p.m.: Brown Bag CLE on Family Law** at Marquette Law School (1 CLE credit for in-person and live online attendees). [Register here.](#)
- **October 20 @ 12:00 p.m.: Coalition for Access to Legal Resources Meeting** at Marquette Law School. For more information or to attend the meeting, email Mindy Schroeder at mindy.schroeder@marquette.edu.
- **October 22 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Project Homeless Connect.** Interested in volunteering? Email Katie Mertz at Kathryn.Mertz@marquette.edu.
- **October 29 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.: Milwaukee Bar Association Seventh Annual Pro Bono Cocktail Reception.** Watch for an invitation from the MBA in the upcoming weeks and register [here.](#)
- **October 28 – 30 and November 11 – 13: Legal Action of Wisconsin’s VLP Fall Training.** These CLE sessions are available at no cost to MVLC volunteers. Additional information available [here.](#)
FLASHBACK – September/October 2015 represents the ten-year anniversary of the MVLC assisting survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

VOLUNTEER STUDENT AND ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHTS

Attorney Melita Biese volunteers with the MVLC at the Milwaukee Justice Center in the Milwaukee County Courthouse. Melita practiced civil litigation for over 30 years and was a partner at Murphy and Prachthauser in Milwaukee. After retiring, Melita attempted to reactive her license in order to continue to take on cases pro bono. It took Melita two years to reactivate and she is now working to try to streamline the process so other retired attorneys can continue to help others. To Melita, the most rewarding part of volunteering is when a client comes in tense, and leaves feeling validated.

NEW PARTNERSHIP AT THE COURTHOUSE

As of July 2015, parents desiring to collaborate in solving custody, placement, and/or child support questions have a new resource. The Milwaukee Justice Center, along with Milwaukee County Child Support Services and Quarles & Brady, is offering Parenting Conferences on a biweekly basis to assist parties in achieving an agreed solution in their case.

In its initial pilot program five Quarles & Brady volunteer attorney facilitators were trained in the legal, cultural, and facilitation skill areas in a session led by Natalie Fleury, Marquette Law School Adjunct Professor and Program Coordinator for the Alternative Dispute Resolution program. After training, volunteer facilitators work with individuals who have been referred by one of the MVLC clinics, to discuss custodial decisions, weekly and holiday placement schedules, and child support payments. The goal of the Parenting Conferences is to assist the parties in developing an agreement and completing a Stipulation and Order form. Volunteer facilitators are assisted by a Child Support Attorney who provides access to current monthly support and arrears numbers, as well as an MJC Family Forms volunteer student who works with the parties in accurately completing the form and instructs on filing procedures.

In the program’s initial weeks, the Parenting Conferences have had a high level of interest and a high success rate with 75% of cases in which both parties attended the conferences resulting in a completed Stipulation and Order. Parties can schedule an appointment via the Milwaukee Justice Center front desk or phone line (414-278-2912). Ideal cases are those in which the parties are currently communicating in some way and want to discuss changes in a post-judgment paternity or divorce action. Cases involving history of domestic violence or where parties have not communicated for an extended length of time, are not suitable for these Parenting Conferences.

PRAISE FOR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY, DANIELLE WHITE, & LAW SCHOOL STUDENT, KELSEY ANDERSON:

“Very good experience, great service, friendly, kind, extremely helpful and showed concern toward my questions. Will recommend this clinic to others. Keep up the good work and continue to assist the veterans.”