NEW LOCATION FOR OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLINIC

For five years, on Wednesday evenings, we have enjoyed the open arms of Centro Hispano’s Hillview Building. Our last clinic in that space was held in December. This month, we say hello to a new partnership with the United Community Center (UCC). Volunteer attorneys from Quarles & Brady, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), and a number of others will continue to serve a largely Spanish-speaking population at the UCC. The clinic will continue to be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. and will now be hosted in the UCC Senior Center located at 730 W. Washington St.

SAVE THE DATE: WISCONSIN’S EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

As a stakeholder in the future of the civil justice system in Wisconsin, you are invited to attend the Wisconsin Equal Justice Conference on March 6, 2015 at the Italian Community Center. Join your fellow equal justice supporters to discuss and learn about strategies that can make equal justice for all a reality in Wisconsin. Additional information and to register click here.

MVLC Brown Bag CLE Series

Register here.

2015

- February 12 – Post-judgment Family Matters and the Affordable Care Act presented by Korey Lundin, Legal Action of Wisconsin
- March 12 – Milwaukee County Small Claims Procedures presented by Maria Dorsey, Milwaukee County Court Commissioner
- April 9 – Same-sex Marriage and Domestic Partnerships in Wisconsin presented by Kathy Charlton, Hawks Quindel S.C.

Save the Date

 Coalition for Access to Legal Resources (CALR) Meeting:
The next CALR meeting will be held on April 21, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. at the Legal Aid Society. For more information about CALR or to join the mailing list, email mindy.schroeder@marquette.edu.
At some point in law school, we all learned about *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the 1963 U.S. Supreme Court case, which established the right to counsel to indigent defendants in criminal cases. However, that same right does not apply to indigent parties in all civil cases. Without lawyers, many poor people lose their housing, children, and safety without due process, and they are denied access to justice. Unfortunately, due to limited funding, civil legal service providers in Wisconsin cannot meet the needs of everyone living in poverty in our state. That is why Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc. (LAW), a non-profit law firm which provides free civil legal services to low-income people, is urging courts to appoint attorneys in certain civil cases. Such cases are those that affect basic human needs, including the right to shelter, food, clothing, heat, medical care, safety, and child custody/placement.

Case law provides Wisconsin courts with the inherent power to appoint counsel for indigent defendants in civil cases. LAW has put together a sample motion for pro se litigants to request appointment of counsel in civil cases. The packet includes a form motion and affidavit, a memorandum in support of the motion, and a proposed order. The Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic now has copies of these packets. Attorneys and students are encouraged to assist clients in completing these packets for certain cases. Below are some examples of the types of cases that a court may be more likely to appoint counsel, although this is not an exhaustive list:

- Family law cases (such as divorce, child custody, and paternity, especially if the safety of a party or his or her child is in danger or if a parent’s rights to visitation or custody are in dispute)
- Housing cases, such as evictions or foreclosures, that could lead to homelessness
- Vehicle repossessions, which could leave an individual without access to transportation and possibly unable to get to work
- Civil contempt hearings, which could lead to a bench warrant being issued for a client’s arrest

Volunteer attorneys and students should also consider the types of clients that may be appointed counsel. In these motions, courts should be considering the party’s age, mental capacity, education, former contact with the courts, the complexity of the case, and the party’s ability to pay for an attorney. Another factor which should encourage courts to appoint counsel is if the other side is being represented by an attorney.

The appointment of counsel in civil cases will benefit our clients. It will also make courts run more smoothly and efficiently and provide Wisconsin with a more just and fair legal system. If volunteer attorneys or students have questions about the packet, please contact Molly Gena, attorney at Legal Action of Wisconsin and MVLC volunteer. Furthermore, pro se litigants who have problems filing the motions in Milwaukee or Waukesha County or are denied counsel are encouraged to call Legal Action of Wisconsin’s main number, 414.278.7722, for possible assistance.

Molly Gena may be contacted at meg@legalaction.org or (414) 297-7283.
BENEFITS OF ATTENDING VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY TRAINING REFRESHER:

- In-Person Attendees Receive One Ethics Credit
- Learn About the Wisconsin Pro Bono Honors Society and Other Volunteer Opportunities
- Updates Regarding Our Clinic Locations
- Explanation of the Changes to the Limited Scope Representation Rules that Apply to MVLC Volunteers
- Information Regarding the Limitations of Our Liability Insurance Coverage

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY TRAINING DATES

- Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. at Quarles & Brady LLP
- Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at Marquette Law School
- Monday, March 16, 2015 at 12:00 at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
- Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at Marquette Law School

Register here.

JULIE GANDEE HONORED WITH A 2014 WISCONSIN LAW JOURNAL UNSUNG HEROES AWARD

Julie Gandee, legal secretary at Quarles & Brady, is among the 2014 legal community of Unsung Heroes for her great work in many arenas, including oversight of volunteer attorney schedules at the Wednesday night MVLC clinic.

Pictured (from left to right): Julie Gandee, Rose Reitz, Lars Gulbrandsen, and Katie Perhach.

MARQUETTE LEGAL INITIATIVE FOR NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS (M-LINC)

The Marquette Legal Initiative for Nonprofit Corporations (M-LINC) has begun taking appointments as of January 2015. M-LINC provides free legal advice for qualifying Wisconsin nonprofits at a weekly clinic held at Marquette Law School. Please help us to spread the word to Wisconsin nonprofits that could benefit from M-LINC’s services and to other organizations or individuals that may like to use M-LINC as a referral in the future.
ATTORNEY AND STUDENT VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

BRIAN JACOBS

Brian Jacobs received both his J.D and B.A. from Marquette University and was admitted to practice in the State of Wisconsin in 2011. Brian is a member of the Intellectual Property Group in the Milwaukee office of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP. His main area is patent prosecution with a background in electrical engineering. He is originally from Illinois, but has lived in Milwaukee for the past 11 years. Prior to joining Michael Best, Brian was a law clerk and served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Marquette Intellectual Property Law Review. To read Brian's interview, visit the volunteer spotlight section of the MVLC website here.

KASEY PARKS

Kasey Parks graduated from Michigan State University with majors in Political Theory and Social Relations & Policy. In addition to her membership on the Student Advisory Board for the MVLC, Kasey actively participates in the Sports Law Program as a member of the Marquette Sports Law Review and the Sports Law Society. Kasey is also a member of the Association for Women Lawyers and the Business Law Society. In her spare time, Kasey enjoys attending sporting events, movies, and concerts. Kasey's favorite television show is Scandal.

MORGAN VAN ROYEN

Morgan Van Royen is a graduate of Arizona State University where she studied Business Communications and Creativity and Entrepreneurship. At Marquette, Morgan is the president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, a member for the Student Advisory Board for the MVLC, and a member of Alternative Dispute Resolution and Sports Law. Morgan loves to play with her puppy on her off time and FaceTime her nieces. Morgan is interested in Collegiate and Professional Athlete Rights work upon graduating in May of 2016 with her JD and MBA.

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH: FASTCASE

Fastcase is a comprehensive online legal research library that includes state and federal statutes, case law, regulations, court rules, administrative codes, and attorney general opinions. Fastcase is a free Wisconsin State Bar membership benefit so volunteer attorneys can access it by logging into Wisbar.org with their membership information. Fastcase is a great resource for MVLC volunteer students and attorneys to use in helping clients!

PRAISE FOR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY, MIKE JANKOWSKI, AND LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS, KATIE SHAW AND ALEXANDRA KLIMKO:

"This information provided was greatly appreciated. I needed some insight on what my options were and I received that and then some. Much thanks to Mike and the MU law students!"