

PRO BONO PROFILES

Experienced Federal Court Litigators Assist Public and District Court

The Volunteer Lawyers Program, co-sponsored by Community Legal Services and the Maricopa County Bar Association, thanks federal court litigators who provide pro bono service to assist self-represented litigants and the Federal District Court. VLP urges participation by other federal court litigators with experience in employment, civil rights, and Social Security so more people can be assisted.

Since 2017, the Volunteer Lawyers Program has been assisting the public and the Federal District Court in Phoenix by arranging volunteer lawyers to participate in the Federal Court Advice Only Clinic to provide brief pro bono guidance for people who are representing themselves or are considering filing in federal court.



Michael DiGiacomo

During the past year, the following attorneys provided valuable pro bono help through the Federal Court Advice Only Clinic: Jennifer Allen; Jillian Andrews; Florence Bruemmer; **Michael DiGiacomo**; James Driscoll-MacEachron; Booker Evans; Holly Gieszl; Gabriel Hartsell; Andrew Jacob; Kristina Morrison; Daniel Ortega; Jesse Ritchey; David Rosenbaum; Benjamin Rundall; Peter Silverman; and Jay Zweig. Other attorneys volunteered as consultants. VLP Advisory Committee members, VLP firm liaisons, and MCBA helped VLP recruit volunteers for the Clinic.

Currently, the Clinic provides 16 to 20 brief phone consultations each month. Attorneys volunteer from their own office or home to provide four 30-minute appointments. Most attorneys volunteer once every two months. VLP provides



Florence Bruemmer

primary malpractice coverage, advance information for conflict checks, recognition, and verification of pro bono hours so attorneys can claim CLE credit for their service.

Florence Bruemmer, a sole practitioner who has

been volunteering with the Clinic since 2017, emphasized that this pro bono service helps both litigants and the Court.

Florence said: "I have been part of the Federal Court Clinic since Day 1. After each clinic, I have a big smile on my face. The litigants are so grateful to be able to ask questions and have someone listen. I enjoy being helpful to the Court by helping the pro per litigants be better prepared."



Andrew Jacob

Andrew S. Jacob, who now is retired and is Certified for Pro Bono through Community Legal Services, has been volunteering with the Clinic since 2018.

He remarked: "Most clients are very appreciative of the opportunity. Because the clinic provides phone consultations, I can participate even when I am out of town. I look forward to providing this service for many years to come."



Gabriel Hartsell

Gabriel Hartsell, partner with Dorsey & Whitney, urges other attorneys with federal court experience to get involved in the Clinic.

He explained: "Most people are looking for someone to listen and provide direction on procedures (i.e. discovery, compliance with orders, or navigating the initial disclosure process). Even in the limited time we have, I've been able to help people navigate the most pressing issue they are dealing with in their case. The clinic requires a fairly small time commitment, but your efforts provide a big lift to pro se litigants who need direction."

For more information about the Federal Court Advice Only Clinic or to schedule a time to observe or to assist, please contact Pat Gerrich at FedCrtClinic@clsaz.org. To find out about other pro bono opportunities, please contact VLP Director Roni Tropper Esq. at rtropper@clsaz.org. ■

Volunteer Lawyers Program Thanks Attorneys

The Volunteer Lawyers Program thanks the following attorneys and firms for agreeing to provide pro bono representation on cases referred by VLP to help people with low incomes. VLP supports pro bono services of attorneys by screening for financial need and legal merit and provides primary malpractice coverage, verification of pro bono hours for CLE self-study credit, donated services from professionals, training, materials, mentors and consultants. Attorneys who accept cases receive a certificate from MCBA for a CLE discount. For information on rewarding pro bono opportunities, please contact VLP Director Roni Tropper at 602-258-3434 x2660 or rtropper@clsaz.org or enroll with us at clsaz.org/volunteer-lawyers-program. ■

VLP THANKS THE FOLLOWING ATTORNEYS AND FIRMS FOR ACCEPTING CASES FOR REPRESENTATION:

**ADULT GUARDIANSHIP/
CONSERVATORSHIP**

Kaitlyn Salmans
Snell & Wilmer

Greg Schieferstein
Snell & Wilmer

**COLLECTION PRACTICES/
CREDITOR HARASSMENT**

Lee Bennett
CLS Certified Pro Bono Counsel

CONSUMER MATTERS

Gregory Iannelli
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

Andrew S. Jacob
CLS Certified Pro Bono Counsel

DEBT COUNSELING

Judy O'Neill
CLS Certified Pro Bono Counsel

HOUSING

Jessica Morgan Sos
Zwillinger Wulkan, PLC

Scott Zwillinger
Zwillinger Wulkan, PLC

MINOR GUARDIANSHIP

Christina Kelly
Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

VLP THANKS THESE VOLUNTEERS WHO PROVIDED OTHER LEGAL ASSISTANCE DURING THE MONTH:

ATTORNEY OF THE DAY

Nancy Anger
Lee Bennett

Robert Crawford
Andrew S. Jacob
David Ouimette

FINANCIAL DISTRESS CLINIC

Tracy Essig
Corey Feltre
Michael A. Jones

INTEL

Michael Norman Coopersmith
Scott Uthe

SNELL & WILMER

Jada Allender
Vaughn Crawford
Caroline Christina Lutz
Lucas Narducci
Stephanie Rioux
Caitlan Elizabeth White

*Special thanks to
Ana Lucia Soto*

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER

Kristy Blackwell
Lauren Bostick

Jessica Cotter

Otilia Diaz
John Gordon
Marilyn Gutierrez
Edwin Ramos
Shawna Riggers
Cory Stuart

**FAMILY LAWYERS
ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

Karla Urrea Berber
Carrie Canizales
Steven Cole
Carrie Cravatta
Greg Davis
Ashley Donovan
Hon. Jeanne Garcia
Stuart Gerrich
Robert Hahn
Christina Hamilton
Joel Hoffman
Tarl Johnson
Lowen Jones
Katherine Kraus
Elizabeth Langford
Christopher Lazenby
Brian Merdinger

Kimberly Staley

Lisa Johnson Stone
Bisi Onisile Whitney

THE FEDERAL COURT CLINIC

Jillian Andrews
Andrew Jacob
Kristina Morrison
Benjamin Rundall

**PROBATE LAWYERS
ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

Kent Berk
Mark Bregman
Emily Burns
Scott Ferris
Kelly Kral
Michelle Lauer
Tracy Marsh
James Rayburn
Ryan Talamante

Kelsey Fischer
ASU Extern/Volunteer
Brayden Harn
ASU Extern/Volunteer

TENANTS' RIGHTS CLINIC

Judy O'Neill

VLP THANKS THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS WHO RECENTLY ENCOURAGED COLLEAGUES TO VOLUNTEER WITH VLP

Matt Feeny

Patricia Gerrich

David Wilhelmsen

*****PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT ON CURRENT NEED FOR REPRESENTATION*****

Attorneys are needed to help consumers with contract matters. Attorneys' fees can be claimed if litigation is required.

The Volunteer Lawyers Program provided \$2,034,915 in measurable economic benefit to families in 2022, in addition to improving safety and well-being for children and adults.

The Volunteer Lawyers Program is a joint venture of Community Legal Services and the Maricopa County Bar Association

*Diversity
Summer Social*

Thursday • June 8 • 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Phoenix Country Club
2901 N. 7th Street • Phoenix

Free to attend, but you must RSVP
at maricopabar.org