



April 2006

News from the VLP

Upcoming CLEs

Domestic Relations » Tucson

On May 8th, the VLP will sponsor a 3 hour CLE called, "Got AR FLAP or Can you OTA if you RMC." The CLE will cover the new Domestic Relations Rules and will specifically focus on providing attendees with a view from the Bench regarding the new rules and their application to Pima County. Judges Dardis and Maxwell will serve as faculty for the seminar. For more information or to sign up to attend, please go to: www.vlparizona.org/CLE.htm.

Guardianship » Tucson

On May 23rd the VLP will sponsor a 3 hour CLE on guardianship law. For more information or to sign up to attend please go to: www.vlparizona.org/CLE.htm

Alternative Dispute Resolution » Show Low

Date to be announced soon!

Law Student Update

This spring, fifty law students participated in six VLP Advocate projects, making this the most successful semester in VLP Advocate history. Student participation with the VLP will conclude next week, but is scheduled to begin again on May 22nd.

An example where student participation has an enormous impact on income maintenance for clients is in the Child Support Project. This semester, twenty-five law students assisted eighty clients and one hundred and fifty-seven children. The project, which assists unrepresented clients at domestic default hearings, increased the average amount of child support per client by \$243.00 a month.

William E. Morris Pro Bono Service Award VLP Attorney to be Recognized at Bar Convention

The William E. Morris Pro Bono Service Award is awarded to recognize extraordinary contributions by an Arizona Attorney in making legal services available to persons who otherwise could not afford them, and thereby to focus public awareness on the substantial voluntary services by Arizona attorneys in this area. The award was renamed in 2000 to honor the memory of William E. Morris, a long-time attorney for the poor in Arizona.

The Foundation has selected a volunteer attorney from SALA's VLP to receive this award in eight of the last nine years. This year the Foundation selected Tom Roberts as the recipient. Tom has been a member of the VLP for more than twenty years and has assisted nearly three hundred clients. Tom provides services to clients in the areas of guardianship, landlord/tenant, home ownership, probate, wills, small estates, unfair practices and consumer tort defense. Although he resides in Tucson, Tom has traveled to Apache and Navajo Counties with the VLP to assist Native Americans living in poverty and to help them protect their homes, wages and vehicles. Tom will receive his award on June 15th at the Arizona State Bar Convention.

New Grants/Funding

Grant Applications Pending » The Community Foundation

Sign Up for a CLE!



Statistics

During the first quarter of 2006, the VLP opened 720 new cases and closed 707. Currently, the VLP has 949 active cases.

Website

www.VLPArizona.org

The VLP website has undergone some significant changes, both in terms of its content and its look. If you haven't visited recently, you may want to check out the site at

www.VLPArizona.org.

In March, the site had 4,218 visitors and 19,265 hits. New volunteers use the site as a way to sign up to register with VLP; among other functions, current VLP members are using the site to register for CLE seminars.

New Grants/Funding

Grant Applications Pending » The Community Foundation

VLP submitted a proposal to The Community Foundation for Southern Arizona for \$15,000. The VLP has made it past the initial letter of inquiry stage. The program was invited to submit a full grant proposal. The proposal was reviewed and the VLP has been informed that we will receive a site visit from the Foundation this month. If awarded, the funds would represent a \$5,000 increase in annual funding for the law student projects coming from the Community Foundation.

Equal Justice Conference

In March two members of the VLP staff and Hon. Fred Dardis attended the ABA's Equal Justice Conference in Philadelphia. In advance of the conference, VLP staff was asked to participate on the design team for the "Beyond the Basics" pre-conference seminar. In addition, VLP staff and Judge Dardis served as faculty at the conference and presented a session entitled, "Cultivating Law Students: The Next Generation of Volunteer Attorneys." The session was well attended and provided the VLP with the opportunity to share information with others from around the country interested in starting similar law student programs.

Questions or comments? E-mail Michele Mirto at mmirto@sazlegalaid.org or call 520.623.9465, ext. 4171.

The VLP is a joint program of Southern Arizona Legal Aid and the Pima County Bar Association.

25
years
volunteer
lawyers
program

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