



A history of helping. A future of hope.

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

News from the VLP

Student Update

Wrap Up of the Student Luncheon

On April 29, 2008, the VLP hosted its annual Spring Luncheon. The Luncheon, held every April, celebrates and recognizes the good work that students do to help clients in need throughout the year. This year's event was held on the U of A campus and catered by El Saguarito Mexican Food Restaurant. More than 80 students, volunteer attorneys, and judges turned out for the event.

Students who participated in one of the VLP's six, student-based clinics between summer of 2007 and spring of 2008 were invited to attend. These students helped more than 1,100 clients obtain financial support for their children, protect their assets from creditors, obtain custody of their children, and provide safe and stable environments for children. The students play a vital role and help ensure equal access to the justice system for all Arizona residents.

This year's Luncheon was emceed by the Honorable Fred Dardis who kept the mood light with humor, gave heart-felt thanks to the students, and said some inspiring words about the value of pro bono work in our society. Students who attended the Luncheon also had the opportunity to mingle with members of the local judiciary as well as several of the VLP's most frequent, volunteer attorneys. This year's event was the first opportunity for many of the student volunteers to speak with the local judges and attorneys that they had worked with throughout the year. And although a single Luncheon cannot convey the VLP's gratitude and admiration for our student volunteers, the program hopes that it provides the students a glimpse of just how much their time, work and effort is appreciated by the local legal community.



helping clients

In the first half of 2008, the VLP opened 1,191 new cases. Of these, 907 were for Pima County residents and 284 were for residents of the eight rural counties served by the VLP. The VLP closed an additional 1,116 cases during this same time frame.

VLPArizona.org

Summer Students

Thirty-two students will volunteer with the VLP during the summer of 2008. The students, who will participate in one of the six clinic opportunities, will not receive school credit or financial compensation for their efforts. However, they will have the opportunity to meet with clients, appear in court, learn from volunteer attorneys and be exposed to several different substantive areas of the law. Most important, it is expected that the 2008 summer students will impact the lives of more than 300 clients in need.

Many thanks to the student volunteers. We look forward to working with you. The program would also like to extend a special thank you to all of the attorneys and judges who volunteered to train students in May. Your time and expertise are truly appreciated!

Grants & Funding



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
for SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Community Foundation for Southern Arizona Award

The VLP was notified earlier this month that it was awarded \$12,000 by the Community

Foundation for Southern Arizona. The funds will support the VLP student projects. Many thanks to the Foundation for these much needed funds and to all of those who continue to so generously support the work of the student and attorney volunteers!

Annual Pima County Bar Association Membership Renewal Donations 2008 Contributions to the VLP

Every year, members of the Pima County Bar Association (PCBA) are given the opportunity to add to their membership dues a donation to Southern Arizona Legal Aid's Volunteer Lawyers Program. This Year, 186 members of the bar contributed to the VLP. The check, which totaled \$8,382, was presented to Hon. Karen

Nygaard and Alyce Pennington, members of the VLP Advisory Board at the PCBA's luncheon on May 27. The VLP would like to thank the following PCBA members who donated to the VLP in 2008. Their generous contributions will help the VLP provide services to those most in need in our community.



Pima County Bar Association

Rochelle E. Abell	James A. Fein	Eugene J. Lane	Annie Marie Rolfe
Philip S. Abromowitz	Hon. Norman S. Fenton	Beth Lang	Lowell E. Rothschild
Hon. Karen S. Adam	Julie Ferdon	Jane K. Larrabee	Mark Rubin
Dina Afek	Susan Ferrell	Hon. John S. Leonardo	Justin M. Ruggieri
Thomas R. Aguilera	Hon. Richard S. Fields	Pamela A. Liberty	Anne Marie Ryan
Arthur B. Alexander	L. Anthony Fines	Meredith Little	Dee-Dee Samet
Nancy L. Anderson	John Fitzpatrick	Carol L. Lohmann	Laurel B. Sammons
Neil H. Ashley	Joey A. Flynn	Randolfo V. López	Laurie Beaver San Angelo
Eva K. Bacal	Charles E. Giddings	Frances T. Lynch	Cary Sandman
Juan Daniel Bacalski	Shannon L. Giles	David Maldonado	Hon. Barbara C. Sattler
William M. Bache	William Robert Gillon	D. Michael Mandig	Evelyn Saunders
John G. Balentine	Gloria A. Goldman	Toni M. Massaro	Natman Schaye
Paul S. Banales	Leonie D. Gray	Hon. Margaret L. Maxwell	Steven P. Sherick
Anne M.B. Barrett	Matthew H. Green	Christopher S. McDonagh	Andrew Silverman
Thomas M. Bayham	Patricia Ann Green	Jay W. McEwen	Jeffrey S. Silvyn
Hon. Thomas J. Berning	Robert L. Gugino	Kate McMillan	Sally J. Simpson
Elaine Whelan Bevans	Paul D. Guglielmo	Michael F. McNulty	Dean A. Sipe
Lisa S. Bibbens	Gerald G. Hawley	Stephanie J. Meade	Elizabeth C. Smith
Janet C. Bostwick	Kenney F. Hegland	Richard J. Michela	Leo N. Smith
Robert C. Brauchli	Walter L. Henderson	Hon. Leslie B. Miller	Jerry Sonenblick
William A. Brauchli	Hon. Richard C. Henry	Jeffrey Minker	Ethan Steele
Dennis M. Breen III	Robert Michael Hersch	Raul A. Miranda	Michael William Storie
Hon. Michael J. Brown	Thomas G. Hippert	Patrick Alan Moran	James W. Stuehringer
Sean H. Bruner	Troy M. Hoch	Jeannine Mortimer	Gerald Sweeney
Christina M. Cabanillas	Louis Hollingsworth	Michael W. Murray	Hon. Paul E. Tang
Hon. Hector E. Campoy	Hon. Eileen W. Hollowell	Scott E. Myers	Eleanor ter Horst
Frank Cassidy	Hon. Margaret M. Houghton	Douglas J. Newman	Gilda M. Terrazas
Elizabeth F. Claiborne	James M. Howard	Hon. Karen J. Nygaard	S. Jon Trachta
Samuel H. Collins	Richard S. Hudgins	Luis A. Ochoa	Carey S. Turner
Dwight W. Connely	Arthur J. Hutton	Nancy J. O'Neill	Nancy J. Tyson
Hon. Julia K. Connors	Hon. Gary M. Israel	Hon. David R. Ostapuk	Cyndy A. Valdez
Kathryn A. Damstra	Gail F. Jansen	David A. Paige	Clague A. Van Slyke, III
Earl F. "Sam" Daniels, III	Susan T. Johnson	Eileen T. Palles	Hon. Bernardo P. Velasco
Sally M. Darcy	Russell E. Jones	Hon. John Pelander	Robert L. Villamana
Bryan E. Daum	Hon. Cindy K. Jorgenson	James B. Penny	Hon. Stephen C. Villarreal
Thomas J. Davis	Karen E. Karl	Carl A. Piccarreta	Susan C. Villarreal
Hon. Frank Dawley	Pamela M. Katzenberg	John Price	Hon. Joan L. Wagener
Hon. Sharon Douglas	Fredric F. Kay	David H. Pritchard	Tamara R. Walters
Michael Drake	Hon. Jan E. Kearney	Hon. Charles R. Pyle	Hon. Nanette M. Warner
Hon. William E. Druke	John D. Kendall	Hon. John M. Quigley	Gordon G. Waterfall
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James H. Dyer	Barry Kirschner	Paul G. Rees	Lynne O. Wood
Peter Economidis	Donald S. Klein	Daniel J. Reidy	Hon. Frank R. Zapata
James P.F. Egbert	Gary S. Kneip	James W. Richardson	Jo Ann Zirkle
John Escher III	Steve Kosteck, Jr.	Kay Richter	Eugene Zlaket
Hon. Philip G. Espinosa	Russell E. Krone	Terri A. Roberts	Thomas A. Zlaket
Robert E. Fee	John G. Kuhnlein		

Awards & Recognition



Congratulations to Dean Christoffel, who received the Arizona Supreme Court Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service, an award that is presented to one Arizona attorney each year. Justice Rebecca White Berch presented Dean with his award at the Judicial Awards Luncheon at Loews Ventana Canyon on June 16. Dean is pictured at left with fellow members of his firm.

Outstanding Pima County Attorney of the Month > [Dan Montgomery](#)

Outstanding Student of the Month > [Jaime Williams](#)

Save the Date!

The VLP Awards Luncheon has been scheduled for **November 20, 2008**. Look for more event details to follow in the months ahead!

Staff Corner

Staff Anniversaries

Krystal Duran will celebrate her first anniversary with the VLP on June 25. Krystal joined the VLP as the program's Rural Pro Bono Coordinator in 2007. A native Tucsonan, Krystal loves the small town feel of Tucson and is dedicated to helping low income individuals within the community. As the VLP's Rural County Coordinator, Krystal conducts legal clinics and refers clients with immediate legal needs to volunteer attorneys in eight rural counties. Her sunny disposition and compassionate heart make her a valuable member of the VLP team. Congratulations!

Goodbye to Olivia Sanders

After two years with the VLP, Olivia was recently transferred to SALA's domestic relations unit. The VLP staff enjoyed working with Olivia and will miss her candor and sense of humor. We all wish Olivia the best!

The VLP Welcomes Summer Interns Max Wedel & Christine Poorten

In addition to the many students who will volunteer in VLP clinics this summer, the VLP is fortunate to welcome two students who will spend their summer helping VLP clients and staff in the program office. The VLP is grateful for their assistance and wishes to extend a warm welcome to Max and Christine (pictured at right).

Max Wedel, originally from Tucson, comes to the VLP from Bethel College in Kansas where he will begin his senior year this fall. Max has a double major in History and Bible and Religion. He is interested in the law and will take the LSAT on June 16. In his spare time Max likes to listen to, play, and create music.



Christine Poorten, born and raised in Tucson, attends Rincon High School where she will begin her senior year in August. She loves to watch Sports Science, Law and Order SVU, and the cooking channel. Christine decided to spend her summer working with the VLP because she knew that the program assisted low income families and she wanted to help.

For more information about the VLP or program staff, please visit the VLP website at www.VLPArizona.org.

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.



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