



## **VLSP's Short-term Volunteer Opportunities for Attorneys**

### **Hotline**

Time: Two hours

Frequency: As the Volunteer's schedule permits

Location: Volunteers' offices

Description: Perform intake interviews of consumer law clients pre-screened for income and case eligibility by VLSP. Issues include deed transfers, frozen bank accounts, name changes, probate, tax/IRS issues and Habitat for Humanity closings. VLSP provides intake sheets, call log and training materials. No consumer law experience necessary.

### **Clinics**

#### **Debt Clinic**

Time: 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Frequency: Monthly

Location: VLSP, One West Main Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Description: Review clients' financial questionnaires and make recommendations as to whether or not clients should be referred to a pro bono bankruptcy attorney. Volunteers receive reference materials and an orientation. Debt clinic is a popular group volunteer option for corporate law departments and firms. No collections/bankruptcy experience necessary.

#### **Pro Se Divorce Clinic**

Time: Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Frequency: Monthly/twice-monthly

Location: MCBA's Rubin Center for Education, One West Main Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, or Hall of Justice

Description: An experienced matrimonial attorney instructs 30 to 40 people on completing the paperwork for a default divorce. Volunteers circulate to assist clients, some with limited literacy and English language skills. No family law experience necessary.

#### **Family Law Clinic**

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Frequency: Twice monthly

Location: VLSP, One West Main Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Description: Advise clients whether or not Family Court custody or visitation petitions should be filed. Fill out petition forms as needed. New volunteers are paired with experienced volunteers. No family law experience necessary.



### Alternatives for Battered Women (ABW) Clinic

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Frequency: First Monday of the month

Location: ABW

Description: Provide an overview of the divorce process. Assist clients completing in-take sheets for assignment to pro bono divorce attorneys through VLSP. No family law experience necessary.

### Wills Clinic

Time: Noon to 2:00 p.m., generally

Frequency: Quarterly

Location: Varies

Description: Prepare wills, health care proxies, designation of standby guardian and other documents for HIV positive clients. Forms are provided for volunteers' use.

### Lawyer of the Morning

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Frequency: Monday through Friday

Location: Rochester City Court

Description: Meet with tenants facing eviction and attempt to negotiate an appropriate settlement with the landlords' attorneys. A Legal Aid attorney is available in court for consultation on case analysis and negotiation strategy, and will assume responsibility for cases that cannot be settled. This collaborative effort between VLSP and Legal Aid is a great opportunity for newly admitted or transactional attorneys to gain courtroom experience.

## **Translation and Interpretation**

Volunteer to provide translation or interpretation services. The need is most urgent in the areas of Spanish and American Sign Language.

## **Share Your Expertise**

Act as co-counsel or mentor attorneys who have accepted case referrals in your practice area. Serve as a CLE panelist. Post materials and update VLSP's library on [probono.net](http://probono.net). No IT experience necessary.

## **Contact Information**

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Linda Kostin, Pro Bono Coordinator, at 585-295-5703 or [lkostin@wnylc.com](mailto:lkostin@wnylc.com)