

**Welcome!**  
**You may recognize us as**



**Same long-term commitment with a new logo**



**Volunteer Lawyers Program**

*A division of Community Legal Services in partnership with the Maricopa County Bar Association*



A partnership that works!



# Volunteer Lawyers Program

*A division of Community Legal Services in partnership with the Maricopa County Bar Association*



**Community**  
Legal Services  
Advocate. Litigate. Educate.





*"Community Legal Services is a nonprofit law firm committed to increasing fairness in the civil justice system by advocating, litigating, and educating on behalf of Arizona's most underserved communities."*

- Supports VLP program administration and finances
- Employs and supports VLP Staff
- Provides primary malpractice insurance for volunteer attorneys
- Screens applicants/clients for financial eligibility and legal needs
- CLS staff consult as substantive experts
- Community advocacy and outreach



## ATTORNEY RECRUITMENT

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

## PRO**BONO**PROFILES

## FUNDRAISING



### 37 Years of Gnomes for Justice

To benefit the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP)

VLP is co-sponsored by Community Legal Services Inc. and the Maricopa County Bar Association

## Volunteers Needed

### Financial Distress Clinics Seeking Volunteers

Attorneys speak with individual low income clients ["client(s)"] to provide information and counsel about debt collection and bankruptcy; and whether bankruptcy is right for that client. The Clinic needs attorneys to assist. Please note, there have been changes to the Clinic's format due to the COVID-19 virus. Client meetings are not held at the Community Legal Services' building. Instead, the meetings are handled telephonically as opposed to in-person.

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION **CLE** MARICOPA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## LSC – a major CLS funding source, requires establishment of “VLP Priorities”



VLP is allowed to assist with any of the following civil areas of law that have been approved by the CLS Board of Directors based on the needs of the community:

Children's Services (CLC)	Consumer Protection	Employment	Family Law (FLAP)
Assistance to Persons with HIV or AIDS (HALP)	Home/Housing Issues	Probate & Estate Planning Advice (PLAP)	Tort Defense
Veterans Benefits	Appeals	Assistance to Non-Profit Organizations	Mental Health

For a complete list of CLS VLP Priorities please contact Patricia Gerrich at [pgerrich@clsaz.org](mailto:pgerrich@clsaz.org)

# Your volunteer time and expertise allow us to expand our assistance to clients and the community!

## ¿Eres fluido en Español?

Fluency in other languages, especially Spanish, is a high need to facilitate communication with many of our clients.

The areas of greatest need include:

- Bankruptcy to stop loss of limited wages
- Consumer protection
- Debt counseling
- Family law advice
- Guardianships of vulnerable children and adults
- Tenants' Rights & eviction prevention

For a complete list of pro bono opportunities please contact Patricia Gerrich, VLP Director:

Email: [pgerrich@clsaz.org](mailto:pgerrich@clsaz.org) Direct VLP Volunteer Phone line: 602-254-4714

## **HELPING PEOPLE PROTECT THEIR CONSUMER RIGHTS**

Volunteer opportunities include:

- ❖ **Direct Representation-** Bankruptcy to stop loss of limited wages
- ❖ **Direct Representation and/or Brief Advice consultations-** Various consumer issues to help people protect their consumer rights regarding purchases, income, property, contracts and loans
- ❖ **Brief Advice consultations-** General debt counseling about the debt collection process, garnishments and clarification of income or benefits exempt from collections

Special programs allow a variety of opportunities:

**Financial Distress Clinic (FDC)-** Client centered interviews providing brief advice.

**Firm Sponsored Clinics-** Private firms like Intel & Snell & Wilmer identify attorneys to provide client consultations on a regular schedule.

**Community Programs-** Reaffirmation in Chapter 7 Bankruptcy; experienced Bankruptcy attorneys mentor law students to assist pro se debtors in a “Friend of the Court” capacity.



- ❖ VLP staff, CLS staff and volunteer attorney mentors provide CLE trainings & case support
- ❖ Spanish interpretation volunteers assist with brief advice interviews
- ❖ Experienced volunteer attorneys play a key role in the coordination of the FDC clinics and the Friend of the Court Program



# FLAP

Attorneys with several years of family law private practice experience provide pro se litigants with brief service and advice in all family law matters, including divorce, child support, custody, parenting time, grandparents rights, paternity, orders of protection and domestic violence issues.

## **Attorneys provide hands on instructions and guidance:**

- Provide advice and explain legal rights
- Explain procedures
- Help complete forms/check documents
- Provide instructions for self-representation in court hearings and trials
- Explain laws and statutes for family law including best interest of child, victims of domestic violence as it pertains to child custody, child support, jurisdiction, etc.

## **Community Group Presentation:**

- Litigants Without Lawyers





**Volunteer attorneys provide legal assistance that enables children to experience safety, security and permanency in their lives.**

**Brief Service and Advice:**

- Juvenile law clinics
- Medical legal partnership clinics

**Court Advisor:**

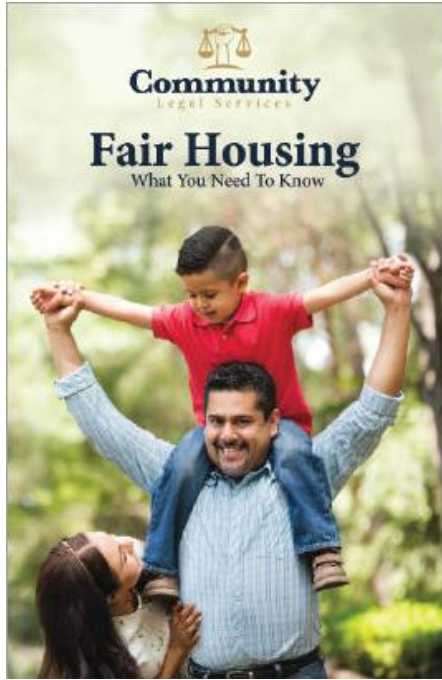
- Child advocacy in Family Court

**Direct Representation in Court:**

- Uncontested minor guardianships
- Severance of parental rights & adoption



- ❖ VLP & CLS staff and volunteer attorney mentors provide CLE trainings & case support
- ❖ Spanish interpretation volunteers assist with brief advice interviews
- ❖ Volunteer process servers and private investigators available on limited basis



Volunteer attorneys provide brief service and advice to tenants based on the Arizona Residential Landlord Tenant Act:

- Focus on tenants' rights to habitable housing
- Help tenants avoid evictions

Support provided by VLP & CLS:

- Training & support
- Spanish interpretation from VLP staff and volunteers
- Helpful fill-able forms and resources



**ARIZONA RESIDENTIAL  
LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT**

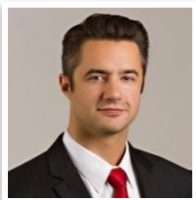
(Form C) 5-day Request for Repairs  
(Health and Safety Issues)

Dear Landlord:

My rental unit has certain conditions that materially affect the health and safety. Since Arizona law A.R.S. § 33-1324 requires you to maintain my rental unit in a fit and habitable condition, I am writing to inform you of the following problems to be repaired:

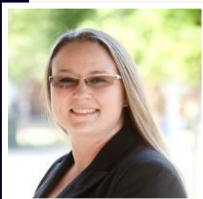
1. <https://clsaz.org/legal-practice-areas/housing-law/>
2. <https://housing.az.gov/general-public/landlord-and-tenant-act>
3. [https://housing.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Landlord-Tenant-Act-ADOH-Publication-July-2018\\_0.pdf](https://housing.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Landlord-Tenant-Act-ADOH-Publication-July-2018_0.pdf)

## JOIN CLS' VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM FOR REWARDING WAYS TO USE YOUR LEGAL SKILLS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY



"I routinely hear colleagues sing the praises of VLP. Whether it's the meaningful work for the underserved they facilitate, or the friendly and supportive VLP staff, VLP has a clear impact on all of my colleagues who participate."

-Tyler Mackey Cobb, Ballard Spahr



"There is literally nothing more rewarding than having someone who was recently feeling absolute despair tell you how grateful they are to receive help, now with a smile on their face."

-Krystal Ahart, Bankruptcy Legal Center



"The VLP has been my bridge to fulfilling that part of me that wanted to help those who needed a lawyer. It has rewarded the sense of purpose which drew me to the law to begin with."

-Booker T. Evans, Jr., Retired from Full-Time Practice

### TOP 10 REASONS TO DO PRO BONO THROUGH VLP

10. VLP provides a wide range of opportunities that can fit any attorney's interests, skills, and schedule
09. Many VLP pro bono opportunities require only a limited amount of time such as 2-3 hours to do interviews or provide brief advice or limited help
08. VLP provides primary malpractice coverage
07. Pro bono can provide opportunities for recognition from VLP, members of the Judiciary, the Bar, and others
06. VLP can provide verification of pro bono hours of service so you can claim self-student CLE credits (up to 5 self-study CLE credits for 25 hours of pro bono service per CLE year, July 1 through June 30)
05. VLP provides orientation, free training & new opportunities so you can learn and improve your skills
04. You can meet and network with other great lawyers who volunteer as you observe or work with a consultant or mentor through VLP
03. There is a GREAT need for help because there are so many people with low incomes who have civil legal needs who cannot be served by legal aid because of limited staff and resources.
02. Community Legal Services staff screen clients in advance so you know clients are financially eligible and cannot afford to hire a lawyer.
01. It is personally rewarding to help people!

# VLP Staff Provide Support for Pro Bono Cases Involving Extended Help and/or Client Representation

Prior to a case referral, CLS clients are screened for eligibility and legal merit. Most of the clients referred have also had an intake interview by another volunteer attorney or CLS/VLP staff.

## The Referral Process:

- A referral packet including case related information and client documents is emailed to you with a follow-up referral letter in the mail
- A Letter is sent to the client instructing them to make contact with you
- You receive a \$15 credit on the registration fee of a CLE Program offered by the MCBA
- Litigation support (interpreters, process servers & private investigators as available)
- Special trainings and mentors available
- When you complete your help, you send a closure report so we can thank you and record your pro bono hours for CLE credit and share your good work with colleagues and Funders

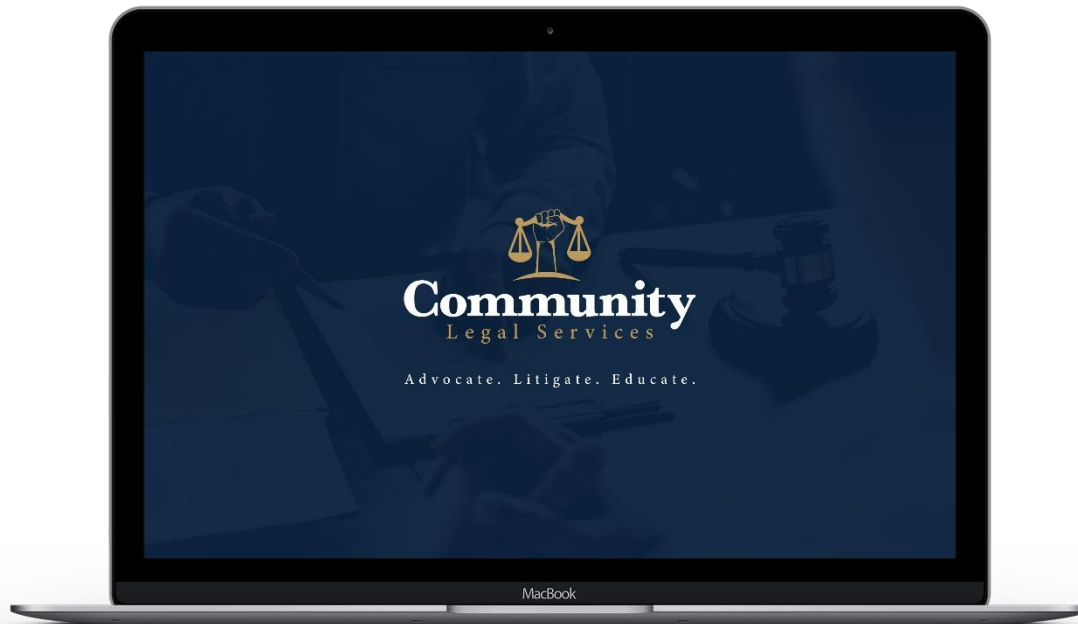
The image shows two forms from the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) of the Maricopa County Bar Association. The left form is a 'Certificate of Pro Bono Contribution' which certifies the pro bono contributions of an attorney. It includes fields for the attorney's name, the client's name, and the date of service. It also mentions a \$15 credit on the registration fee of a CLE Program offered by the MCBA. The right form is a 'Case Closure' report, which is a form to be completed at the end of a case. It includes fields for the VLP Case No., Name of Client, Address, and Date of Referral. It also has a section for 'Check one that best describes your work and/or the outcome in this case' with options like 'Full Counsel and Advice', 'Limited Advice', 'Negotiated Settlement without Litigation', 'Negotiated Settlement with Litigation', 'Administrative Agency Decision', 'Court Decision', and 'Extension Decision'. There is also a section for 'We regularly report statistics, outcomes and economic benefits to our funders. Thank you for sharing any of the applicable details with us so that we can report your good work!' with a list of questions to be answered.

**You can make a difference in the number of families served by Community Legal Services!**

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# Thank you for your time!

Please follow us on Social Media:



**WWW.CLSAZ.ORG**