



David Wilson, Sole Practitioner, Prescott

Lisa Schriener Lewis, DeConcini, McDonald, Yetwin & Lacy, PC, Tucson

Iron Man, Batman, Hancock. Think you have nothing in common with the caped crusaders storming the movie theaters this past summer?

Think again. As an attorney, you have a special power that you share with only a few: the power to use your skill and talent to make a difference in the lives of impoverished Arizonans who have nowhere to turn for legal assistance.

Every day in Arizona, hundreds of people seek assistance from civil legal aid programs: a woman lost in the legal process of divorcing her abusive spouse; a grandparent struggling to obtain guardianship over his or her grandchild; a single parent unsure of his or her rights in a landlord-tenant issue. They are people who need heroes.

Some of these people are rescued just in time. Currently, more than 2,400 attorneys volunteer their time with Arizona's Volunteer Lawyers Programs. These programs manage intake and screening for Arizonans living below the poverty level who seek legal assistance but cannot be assisted through a legal aid program. The VLPs then match clients with volunteer attorneys willing to provide

pro bono legal assistance. These volunteer lawyers are larger-than-life heroes to their clients. For a person feeling lost in the civil legal system, a volunteer lawyer is stronger, faster—and able to leap legal hurdles in a single bound.

Unfortunately, as Arizona's population grows, so does the number of Arizonans living in poverty. Many people in need are turned away due to inadequate resources and lack of volunteers. So Arizona's VLPs are looking for a few new superheroes this fall. Beginning in September, the VLPs will participate in Arizona's first statewide recruitment campaign in more than five years. The campaign will target attorneys who practice in Arizona, but who do not currently participate in the VLP.

And like any true superhero, a volunteer attorney need not quit his or her day job to find time for acts of derring-do. Arizona's VLPs offer an expansive range of opportunities to assist indigent clients. Through the VLP, volunteers can donate a few hours at a legal advice clinic, supervise law students as they assist clients or represent a client in a

matter from beginning to end. The Arizona VLPs offer training, mentoring and encouragement, and malpractice coverage (cap and tights are not included).

So if you remember the mighty success achieved when Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Flash and the Green Lantern all teamed up on the Justice League of America, take this opportunity to join an elite fighting force. You are already qualified just by doing what you do. Go ahead, be a hero. Just by being a lawyer. **AL**

STACY RUPPRECHT BUTLER is a member of the VLP Advisory Board and law clerk to United States Magistrate Judge Jennifer C. Guerin. Her favorite superhero is Michele Mirto, Executive Director for Southern Arizona's VLP.

Taking the Heroic Leap

To join a Volunteer Lawyers Program today, contact the VLP representative in your area:

Community Legal Services

Phoenix/Maricopa County

Patricia Gerrich, Esq.
Pgerrich@clsaz.org
602-258-3434, ext. 2630
www.vlpmaricopa.org

Yavapai County

Tina Roach
928-445-9240, ext. 2025
troach@clsaz.org

Yuma & La Paz counties

Kay Marion Macuil, Esq.
Kmacuil@clsaz.org
928-782-7511

Mohave County

Xochilt Estrada-Nelson
xnelson@clsaz.org
928-681-1177, ext. 23

DNA—People's Legal Services

Flagstaff/Coconino County, and the Navajo Nation, Hopi, Havasupai & Hualapai Tribes

Barbara Benavidez
Bbenavidez@dnalegalservices.org
www.dnalegalservices.org

Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.

Tucson/Pima County, and Apache, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, Pima, Pinal and Santa Cruz counties

Michele Mirto, Esq.
520 623-9465, ext. 4171
mmirto@sazlegalaid.org
www.vlpazona.org