

Make the World a Better Place

This spring, the Volunteer Lawyers Programs in Arizona have joined together to conduct a statewide attorney recruitment campaign. The goal of this campaign is to increase the number of attorneys who donate their time through the Program, thereby increasing the number of clients who receive legal assistance in Arizona.

Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Jones has pledged his full support of the recruitment campaign. "This is a worthwhile effort in view of the growing need for legal assistance among those who are less fortunate," wrote Jones in a letter sent this month to Arizona attorneys. "As an attorney, you are uniquely qualified to provide this assistance. Accordingly, I seek your support for the VLP and invite your participation as a pro bono attorney."

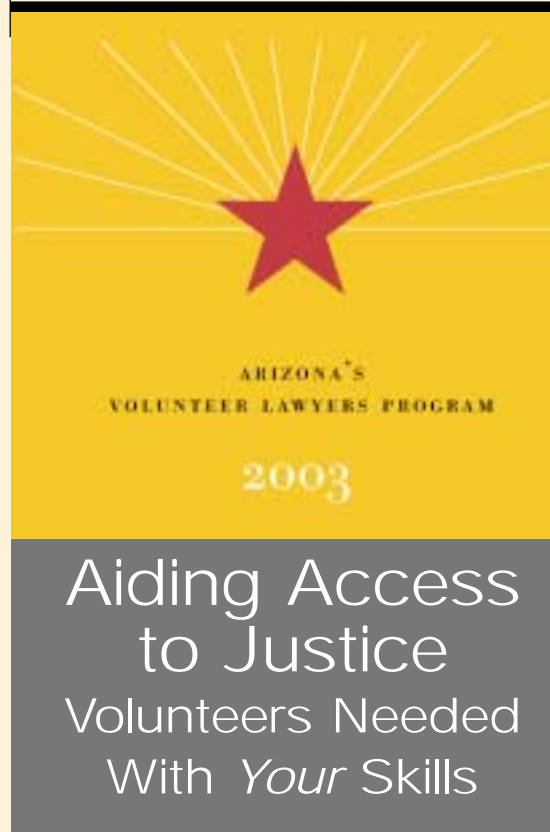
Ease Someone's Burden

To the nearly one million Arizonans who live in poverty, legal assistance can seem unreachable. They may have serious problems that could be solved with minimal help. Instead, they live in fear, are exploited, or forfeit their rights. Civil legal aid programs lack the resources and staff to respond to all the needs of those less fortunate and must turn away many applicants each day.

The Volunteer Lawyers Program attempts to narrow that gap by matching volunteer attorneys with qualified, low-income clients. Despite a commendable pool of more than 2,500 volunteer lawyers throughout the state, the number of requests for assistance far outweighs the available resources.

Be Part of the Solution

Arizona attorneys can make a difference by making justice a reality for somebody in need. An hour of expertise can save someone from an abusive relationship, keep a financial problem from turning into homelessness or resolve a minor problem before it becomes disastrous. The effects of a sin-



gle act of benevolence can be far reaching.

"There are more than 12,000 licensed attorneys in Arizona," says Amy Glicken, rural pro bono coordinator for the VLP in southern Arizona. "If we double the current number of volunteers, it will be a win-win situation. More volunteer lawyers means less burden for the courts, shared responsibility within the community of attorneys and, most important, legal services for people in need."

Be Part of a Team

Attorneys will find an impressive range of opportunities in the Volunteer Lawyers Program. You can handle cases within your field of expertise or use this avenue to explore a new aspect of the law. As a volunteer lawyer, you might interview clients to determine the legal merits of a case and make initial recommendations. In scheduled clinics and through representation, attorneys can provide assistance in areas such as consumer rights, housing, government benefits, probate, HIV/AIDS issues, children's law, taxes, personnel matters, bankruptcy, family law, domestic violence and torts.

Need more options? Attorneys can pres-

ent educational talks for interest groups such as senior citizens or community organizations. Attorneys also can mentor or be mentored in a specialty area or present Continuing Legal Education seminars in their area of expertise.

As a volunteer lawyer, the relationships produced by donating your time are invaluable, and you can be sure that every hour you give is well spent. The Volunteer Lawyers Program provides support staff and paralegals so you are free to concentrate on the work that only you can do. All of the VLP's clients are screened in advance so that volunteer attorneys know the clients they assist are truly indigent. In addition, every case is reviewed for merit, so the volunteer attor-

neys know their talents will be put to good use.

"The Volunteer Lawyers Program also provides primary malpractice, free Continuing Legal Education training, CLE discounts, reference materials, consultants and mentors," says Pat Gerrich, director of the program in Maricopa County.

In addition to the recruitment mailing, the Program will provide Continuing Legal Education seminars across Arizona in May. These seminars will be held in rural areas, as well as in Phoenix and Tucson. (See next page for dates and places.) The CLEs may qualify for three hours of ethics credit. Presenters will include Ernest Calderón, President of the State Bar of Arizona, Larry Cohen, Joe Kanefield and other members of the bench and bar. These seminars will be free of charge to all current volunteer attorneys and to those who sign up to participate in the Volunteer Lawyers Program.

It's Even Easier Now in Rural Arizona

Four VLP coordinators now work in rural counties in Arizona. "We are excited about the expansion of the Volunteer Lawyers Program to the rural counties," says Kelly

Carmody, Legal Services Director of the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education. "Every county now has a coordinator who works directly with local volunteer attorneys. This will increase access to justice across Arizona." The Foundation assists in funding the Volunteer Lawyers

Program with IOLTA grants and federal and state money.

It's the Right Thing to Do

"Whether you are a veteran attorney or just starting your career, there is a place for you with the VLP," Chief Justice Jones wrote.

"I urge you to participate and trust that being a volunteer lawyer will be one of the rewarding experiences of your career."

Attorneys and law firms that would like to join the Program should contact the program nearest them. The recruitment campaign will run through May. ▴



Arizona's Volunteer Lawyers Program is composed of six programs across the state. To volunteer, contact the Coordinator for your county or interest.

Apache, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, Pinal and Santa Cruz Counties

Amy Glicken
Rural Pro Bono Coordinator
Southern Arizona Legal Aid
64 E. Broadway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 623-9465 x 157 or
1-800-258-6789
(520) 620-0443 FAX
amy@sazlegalaid.org

Coconino County

Barbara Benavidez
Pro Bono Coordinator
VLP of DNA-People's
Legal Services

222 East Birch Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(520) 774-0653 or
1-800-789-5781
(520) 774-9452 FAX
bbenavidez@dnalegalservices.org

Maricopa County

Pat Gerrich
Director, Volunteer
Lawyers Program
Community Legal Services
P.O. Box 21538
Phoenix, AZ 85036-1538
(602) 254-4714 or
(602) 258-3434, x263
(602) 254-9059 FAX
pgerrich@clsaz.org

Mohave County

Xochilt Nelson
VLP Coordinator of Mohave County
Community Legal Services
1720 Beverly Ave. Suite A
Kingman, AZ 86401

(928) 681-1177, x23 or
1-800-255-9031
(928) 681-5998 FAX
xnelson@clsaz.org

Pima County

Michele Mirto
VLP Program Director
Southern Arizona Legal Aid
64 E. Broadway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 623-9465 x134 or
1-800-258-6789
(520) 620-0443 FAX
michele@sazlegalaid.org

Yavapai County

Kerri Vaughn
VLP Coordinator of Yavapai County
Community Legal Services
401 N. Mount Vernon
Prescott, AZ 86301
(928) 445-9240 or
1-800-233-5114
(928) 445-6312 FAX
kvaughn@clsaz.org

Yuma and La Paz Counties

Jo Ann Reyes
VLP Coordinator of Yuma/
La Paz Counties
Community Legal Services
201 S. 1st Ave.
Yuma, AZ 85364-2250
(928) 782-7511 x18 or
1-800-424-7962
(928) 782-0037 FAX
jareyes@clsaz.org

Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project

Stacy Taeuber
Pro Bono Coordinator
Florence Immigrant
& Refugee Rights Project
P.O. Box 654
Florence, AZ 85232
(520) 760-4175
(520) 760-4175 FAX
staeuber@dakotacom.net

Free Ethics CLE

Ethics CLE seminars are being held across Arizona during May as part of the statewide recruitment campaign. The seminars are free for attorneys who currently volunteer or sign up to volunteer with the Volunteer Lawyers Program in their area.



Date	Location	Contact
May 2, 2:00 p.m.	Yuma	Jo Ann Reyes
May 6, 2:00 p.m.	Bisbee	Amy Glicken
May 7, 2:00 p.m.	Kingman	Xochilt Nelson
May 7, 2:00 p.m.	Nogales	Amy Glicken
May 8, 9:00 a.m.	Tucson	Michele Mirto
May 16, 2:00 p.m.	Prescott	Kerri Vaughn
May 27, 2:00 p.m.	Phoenix	Pat Gerrich (date may change)
May 30, 2:00 p.m.	Flagstaff	Barbara Benavidez