

VLP MONTHLY

A MONTHLY BRIEFING FROM THE PRO BONO TEAM AT THE ECBA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT
MARCH 2023 EDITION



VLP TURNS 40

In 1983, VLP was started as a project of the Bar Association of Erie County and Neighborhood Legal Services. In the early years, VLP had only 3 staff members and served 343 clients, but the project grew over time and in 1988 VLP became a not for profit corporation. 40 years later, we have grown to a staff of over 50 employees with offices in Buffalo and Batavia. We continue to work towards our mission of providing quality free legal services to low-income people and engaging volunteers in providing those services. In 2022, our staff and volunteers served over 5,000 clients in a variety of legal matters ranging including eviction defense, family law, immigration, consumer debt issues, matrimonial matters, and income tax controversies, and more. We hope that you will help VLP continue to speak for those who are not heard.

[Support The ECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. Click here to DONATE NOW.](#)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING FREE CLE:

SAVE THE DATE:

March 24, 2023 at 2:00 PM

ECBA VLP will be hosting a special immigration training live at Buffalo Immigration Court for lawyers who are new to immigration practice and are willing to get involved in a pro bono capacity. This will be an in-person only training and space will be limited.

Stay tuned for more details and registration instructions.

FEATURED FREE ON DEMAND CLE OF THE MONTH:

Utilizing Surrogate's Court Procedure Act Article 17-A

Credits: 1.0 Professional Practice

To Register: <https://bit.ly/3TKyl63>

Passcode: pv!v2O+^

For a complete list of On Demand trainings, please visit

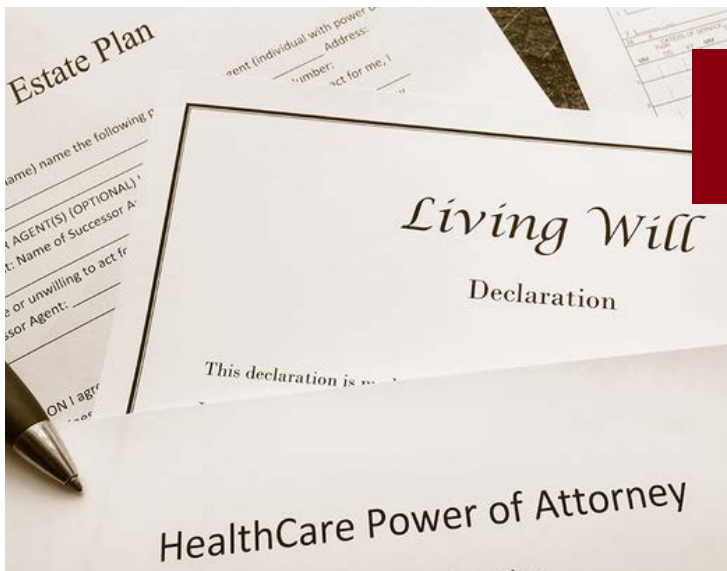
<https://ecbavlp.com/volunteer/why-pro-bono/>



FULL REP PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

Current full representation cases in need of volunteer attorneys include:

- A pre-suit tort defense case for a dog bite with minor injuries.
- Four divorce plaintiff cases.
- Two Chapter 7 Bankruptcy cases, one of which is for a survivor of domestic violence looking for a fresh start.
- Drafting of a Last Will and Testament and other end of life planning documents for two clients.





LIMITED SCOPE PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

Every week VLP has limited scope opportunities to volunteer:

Eviction Defense Program- Attorney of the Morning

Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm

No experience necessary

To sign-up: <https://ecbavlp.com/volunteersignup/>

Password: HOUSING2021

Family Court Help Desk

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12pm-2pm

For experienced Family Court Practitioners

To sign up: Email Kris Sigeti at KSigeti@ECBAVLP.com

Federal Court Pro Se Assistance Program

Wednesday and Friday 12pm-2pm

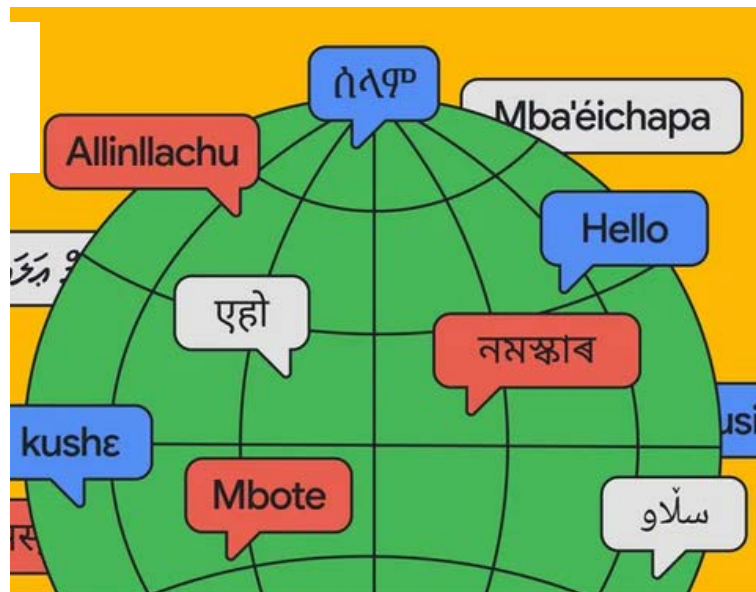
For experienced Federal Court Practitioners

To sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AA8AE2FA4FD0-psap1>

MULTILINGUAL ATTORNEYS NEEDED

Are you an attorney who can speak a language other than English? VLP needs your help! Many of our clients in need of various civil legal services are limited in their English language proficiency. Having an attorney who speaks their primary language promotes a stronger attorney/client relationship and saves time for everyone involved. If you are an existing volunteer who is proficient in a language other than English, please reach out so we can update our records. If you have never taken a case from VLP but would like to help a client who speaks another language, we would love to bring you onboard.



VLP VISITS YOUR WORKPLACE

Over the past 2 months, VLP has had the opportunity to present information about our services and our mission to two area firms: Phillips Lytle LLP and Lippes Mathias LLP. As part of these presentations, we included a training for CLE credit on trauma-informed lawyering. One review of this training stated that "all Buffalo firms should hear this!" If you would like to be the next firm we visit in-person, please reach out. We'll be happy to schedule a lunch hour program or whatever is most convenient for you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANYTHING COVERED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT

ECBA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT (716) 847 0662

MARIA VALERI ♦ MVALERI@ECBAVLP.COM ♦ EXT. 321
MARK MISKOVSKI ♦ MMISKOVSKI@ECBAVLP.COM ♦ EXT. 317