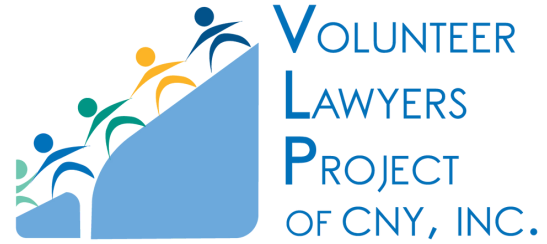


2023

SUMMER UPDATE



PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES SITE

VLPCNY is proud to launch our new “Pro Bono Opportunities” site! This tool was created by our Pro Bono Best Practices Committee to make it easier for our volunteer attorneys to see where their help is needed most, and to express their interest with the click of a button. You can sort opportunities by area of law, geographic location or case attributes such as limited scope/ongoing representation. Check it out now, and help spread the word! Can you get one friend to sign up to give back?

Click [HERE](#) or visit <https://vlpcny.org/pro-bono-opportunities/> to sign up for a pro bono opportunity. *We are thankful to have received funding from the New York Bar Foundation which allowed for the buildout of this technology.*



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Pro Bono Opportunities

Pro Bono Opportunities for Attorneys Interested in Giving Back to Central New York

Want to make a difference in your community? Below are two ways to get involved as a volunteer:

- 1) Individual Cases to assist low-income community members; and
- 2) Limited Scope Legal Clinic opportunities -- where you can volunteer a few hours of your time to help multiple clients.

Use the filters below to find cases you are interested in and click the "I'm interested" link to tell us more about yourself.

By submitting this form, you're not committing to anything yet. This will allow you to learn more about this opportunity. *Not seeing the opportunity you want?* Sign up for our mailing list on the bottom of this page. We will keep you informed about what's happening at VLPCNY.

CELEBRATE WITH VLPCNY THIS OCTOBER

October is National Pro Bono Celebration month, and VLPCNY will be joining the Celebration by honoring this year's Pro Bono Champions! Join us for **All In For Equity & Justice** on **Thursday, October 12, 2023** from **6pm-8pm** at the **Rosamond Gifford Zoo** in Syracuse. It will be an event filled with purpose, community and FUN! Proceeds raised are critical to our ability to continue to provide legal service to those in need. We are looking for sponsors and raffle prize donors. We hope you join us for the event. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and purchase a ticket.



SAVE-THE-DATE!

**ALL IN
FOR EQUITY & JUSTICE**

**VOLUNTEER
LAWYERS
PROJECT
OF CNY, INC.**

*JOIN VLPCNY FOR A CASINO NIGHT
FUNDRAISER & PRO BONO CELEBRATION!*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12
ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO, SYRACUSE

♥ ♦ ♣ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

NOMINATE A PRO BONO CHAMPION

Pro bono support and community collaboration brings the mission of VLPCNY to life. Pro Bono Champion Awards are presented to those who participated in volunteer work with VLPCNY. These awards celebrate the exemplary pro bono efforts of lawyers, law students, paralegals and community partners who promote access to justice, empower and advocate for clients and make an impact in our community. Know someone who deserves to be honored? Click [HERE](#) to submit a nomination for the 2023 VLPCNY Pro Bono Champion Awards.



Questions about the event? Are you interested in sponsorship opportunities? We have great recognition benefits! Want to donate a raffle prize? Contact Bethanie at bhemingway@vlpcny.org.

IMMIGRATION PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW, BUT COMMUNITY NEED REMAINS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Thanks to the efforts of immigration advocates, supportive legislators and the Governor, the New York State Office for New Americans substantially increased funding to immigration legal services providers across New York State, including to VLPCNY. VLPCNY's Upstate Immigration Pro Bono Project has volunteers serving immigrants in Central New York, the Mohawk Valley and North Country, and in collaboration with partner agencies also serves all of Western New York including Buffalo and Rochester. The Project will now begin serving the Capital Region as well. Sara McDowell, Esq. has been promoted to Deputy Executive Director for Immigration Programs and will offer critical leadership to our growing team as we provide legal assistance to immigrant and refugee communities. **"We are so thrilled to be able to expand our services to serve more immigration clients in Central New York and across New York State,"** said Sara McDowell, Deputy Executive Director for Immigration Programs. **"The increased community need for immigration legal services has far outweighed the availability of immigration legal service providers in recent years. We are extremely grateful to the NYS Office for New Americans for supporting our work and expanding our ability to further meet the community need."**

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of volunteers to help our immigrant clients. We are calling all volunteers including:

- Attorneys to take on cases
- Law students to support on cases
- Interpreters (Dari, Pashto, Spanish and more)
- Drivers for rides to Buffalo and Newark

Interested in giving back to the community?

Contact Grace at gzaiman@vlpcny.org

PRO BONO SHOUT-OUTS

Denny Baldwin is a longtime volunteer attorney who brings compassion to our community through remote volunteer work. For the past several years Denny has resided in Florida but remains a committed pro bono supporter by maintaining his law practice with the VLPCNY office in Syracuse. This allows him to continue offering critical legal advice to those he works with telephonically through our community clinics. "I decided to continue to participate in Tel-Law, albeit it from afar, knowing how grateful the vast majority of our callers are to hear a caring voice at the other end of the line. My volunteering with Tel-Law has also helped me feel more connected to folks in need, while exercising my ever-aging 'gray matter'."



VLPCNY would like to express gratitude to Barclay Damon LLP attorney **Genevieve Halpenny**, who volunteered over 300 hours to assist a low-income senior with obtaining a court order for return of his professional tools. Attorney Halpenny graciously and thoughtfully pursued the client's claim through multiple court processes and setbacks. Attorneys like Ms. Halpenny help make our community a better place every day.



Thank you to attorney **Manuel Arroyo**, who generously volunteered his time and expertise to present on the legal aspects of small business development to a class of local entrepreneurs. Attorney Arroyo's friendly manner encouraged the participants to ask questions regarding their new businesses, which he answered with kindness. VLPCNY appreciates legal volunteers who assist low-income micro-entrepreneurs in our community to develop their individual and community economic stability. Thank you, attorney Arroyo!



WELLNESS IN THE WORKPLACE

Legal aid work can be overwhelming and stressful for all. VLPCNY has established a Wellness Committee that seeks to aid our team in caring for themselves and preventing burn out through providing interesting and relaxing experiences. Supported by a Health and Wellness Award graciously provided by **Excellus BlueCross BlueShield**, the team is working to identify ways that vicarious trauma affects wellbeing and our ability to advocate for racial and economic justice in our work. In June, our staff and interns used art to release tension and refocus on wellbeing by participating in a meditative painting workshop at the Liverpool Art Center.



OUT & ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

VLPCNY has been thrilled to participate in multiple community engagement events this summer. Staff and interns tabled at Senator John Mannion's Veterans Resource Fair, completed over 50 client intake for name changes at the CNY Pride Festival and participated in the Syracuse Juneteenth flag raising ceremony and festivities.

We are always happy to attend community happenings and share information about the work our staff and volunteers do. Connect with Bethanie at bhemingway@vlpcny.org to learn more!



ACCESS TO JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

The John Ben Snow Foundation has once again provided funding to VLPCNY to provide an academic fellowship to Access to Justice Fellows. Fellows must be passionate about VLPCNY's mission and advancing the cause of equity in their work. We provide Fellows with hands on experience working with clients, and instill our values of respect and equity in all that they do.

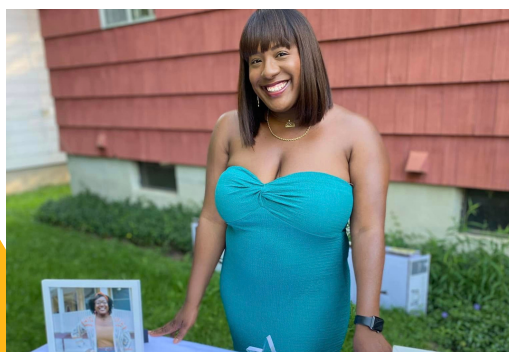
"During my second year of law school, I received an email from my Immigration Law Professor about an opportunity to volunteer with VLPCNY to help the recent Afghan Evacuees arriving to Syracuse," said Marisol Estrada Cruz, Access to Justice Fellow. **"The call for volunteers explained that they could use any and all of the help from the community and it was a perfect time for me to step up to help. Volunteering at the legal clinics was probably one of the best experiences I've had in law school and I fell in love with the work that VLPCNY set out to do."**

Our hope is for Fellows to become committed to pro bono work and volunteer their time long after their internship. Our Access to Justice Fellows contribute to our mission in profound ways, and we are so thankful to The John Ben Snow Foundation for this support.



COMMUNITY MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

We were thrilled to celebrate the 9th anniversary of former VLPCNY client, **Doula 4 A Queen!** SeQuoia Kemp is a community-based birthworker in Syracuse who offers doula care and childbirth education and is an educator and activist for on issues surrounding infant and child mortality in black communities. VLPCNY worked with Doula 4 A Queen to obtain an LLC and has provide small business support. Congratulations to SeQuoia for the amazing work being done. Small business owners and entrepreneurs with legal issues regarding starting a business or legal problems that come up during operation can contact business@vlpcny.org to learn more about VLPCNY programming.



LEADING WITH OUR VALUES

As our team reflects on our current mission and vision statements, we hope to gain feedback from YOU about the values that shape how we interact with our colleagues, clients, partners and broader community. Can you give us a few minutes of your time to respond to our values survey? Click [HERE](#) to participate. We greatly appreciate your time and input.

CO-CREATE WITH US!

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Can we have a minute of your time?
Fill out the form to let us know what values matter most to you.

THANK YOU!



LEGAL EDUCATION

Did you know our website has a page of legal education forms available? Click [HERE](#) to download some great Debt Program information and check back in the near future for other helpful links.

JOIN OUR TEAM

VLPCNY is currently hiring for the following positions:

- Office for New Americans CNY Supervising Attorney
- Office for New Americans North Country - Legal Assistant
- Office for New Americans Program Grant Support/Intake
- Office for New Americans - CNY Pro Bono Coordinator
- Office for New Americans Technology Manager
- LGBT Program Legal Assistant



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Home » Legal Education

Legal Education

Debt Program Information:

- How Do I Know If There's a Judgment Against Me?
- What Is Charity Care?
- Is Anything Protected From Debt Collectors?
- I Received a Garnishment Notice - What Next?
- What If I Can't Pay Medical Bills?
- Answering a Lawsuit
- Know Your Rights with Surprise Medical Bills
- Medical Debt on Credit Reports
- What to Know About Money Judgments

Click [HERE](#)
to learn more and apply
to a position!