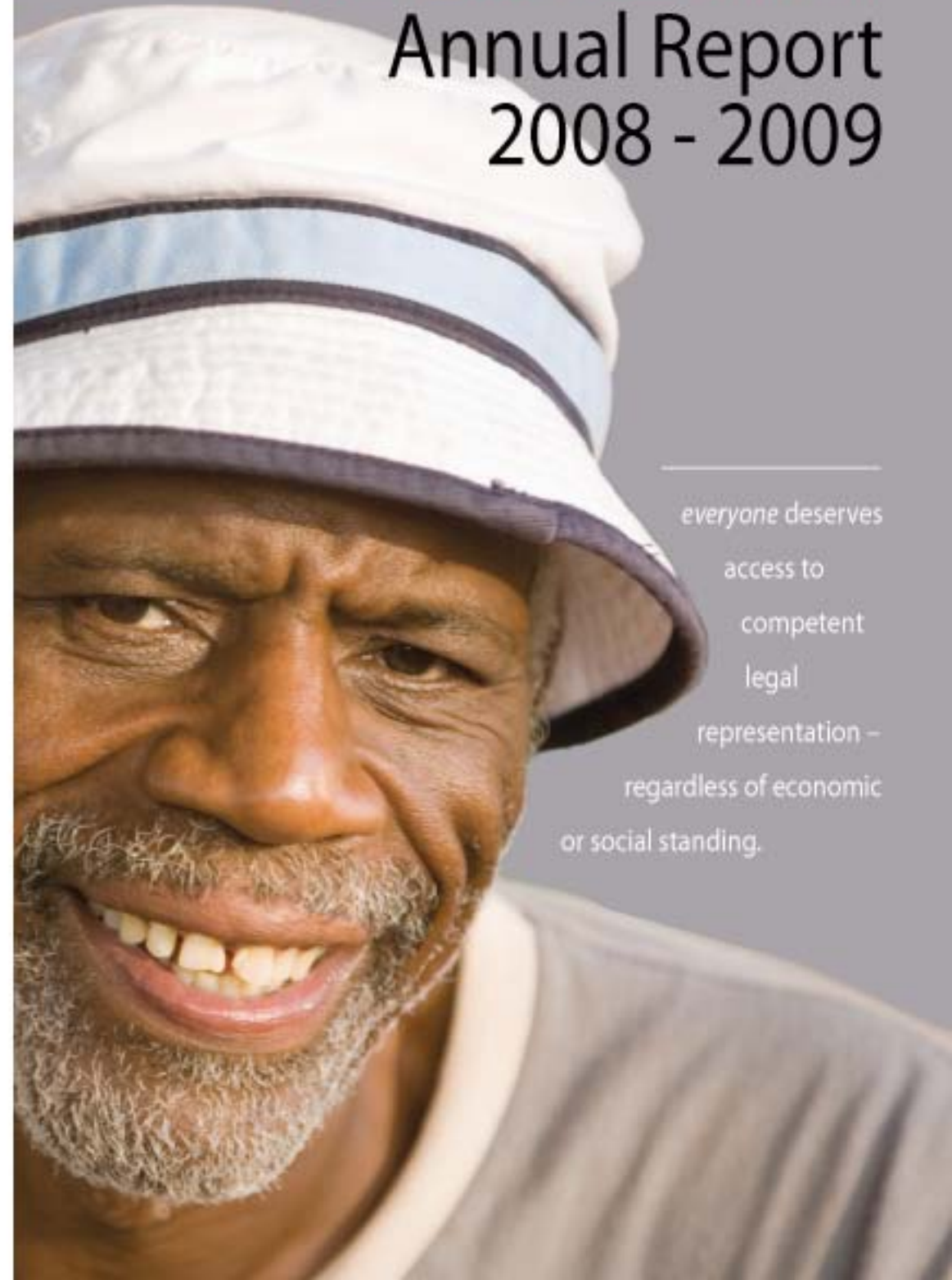


VOLUNTEER LAWYERS NETWORK

Annual Report 2008 - 2009

everyone deserves
access to
competent
legal
representation –
regardless of economic
or social standing.





Suzanne Pontinen
Executive Director

from the executive director

Dear Friends and Supporters of VLN,

Everyone has been affected by the economic downturn. All of us at VLN want to thank you for your ongoing support and let you know how we are making good use of your contributions.

In 2008/09 we faced a budget deficit head-on and **refocused our services to critical needs**. At the same time, we saw growing numbers of people in housing, credit or family crisis. With your generous commitment of financial support, time and talent, we provided more services than ever last year.

This past year we finalized our **new five-year strategic plan**. The plan's cornerstone is to set priorities to protect basic human needs, specifically shelter, sustenance, safety and child custody.

At a practical level, here is how the new plan has helped reframe our work. VLN began the year with a projected \$120,000 deficit. We ended our fiscal year with a **balanced budget**. We accomplished this through expanded fundraising efforts, staff attrition, increased office efficiencies and focusing our work on our key goals.

We have reduced the number of hours staff spends on phone intake, freeing time up for the vital work of linking clients to volunteers. We have eliminated some services deemed less pressing or provided elsewhere.

We added a bankruptcy legal clinic, expanded Línea Legal Latina and increased the number of brief service and full-representation cases.

In 2008, we also moved to new offices in expanded space next to HCBA. Another big change this year was that former Executive Director Brad Thorsen stepped down. I was honored to be offered (and accepted) this position. Martha Delaney provides invaluable support as Assistant Executive Director. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Thank you again for your help in making a positive difference in the lives of our clients.

Most appreciatively,

Suzanne L. Pontinen
Suzanne Pontinen
Executive Director

Today, with over 700 active volunteers, VLN is one of the nation's most respected volunteer-based nonprofit providers of legal services.

... we provided more services than ever last year.

from the chair

My term as board chair was an **amazing** experience in team leadership. I have never before had the privilege of working on a team where all the players pulled their own weight and **added so much unique value**. The "team" consisted of Volunteer Lawyers Network's amazing staff and board. The "game" was figuring out how to pull VLN through one of its most challenging years.

The game involved a set of five important goals:

1) Leverage Board Connections: The board was encouraged to think about unique ways of connecting VLN with resources. Staff prepared a thoughtful wish list, then presented highlights at each board meeting. As a result VLN received much needed office equipment and professional services.

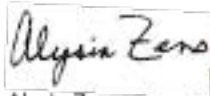
2) Create and Implement New Strategic Plan: Vice Chair Jon Bye led an amazing committee of volunteers in putting together VLN's strategic plan and even provided measures to ensure it doesn't collect dust!

3) Expand and Diversify Donor Base: This aggressive goal was incredibly important to the near and long-term economic health of VLN. Sue Pontinen and Martha Delaney worked hard to expand and sharpen their fundraising skills. Working with a fundraising consultant VLN developed working relationships and models essential to our future growth.

4) Launch Emeritus Committee: Another important effort we faced was the task of creating a large annual fundraiser for VLN. This resulted in the establishment of our Benefactors' Board comprised of devoted long-time supporters and lead by VLN's 30-year board and volunteer veteran, Tom Tinkham. This hard working group sprung into action, inaugurating VLN's Annual Pro Bono Picnic in September 2009.

5) Formalize Board Best Practices: VLN's bylaws were amended to reflect some important goals, including meeting attendance, meaningful board diversity, officer duties, and board training.

We are all proud to have **accomplished so much** together in one "short" year. Our board, and in particular our executive committee, held many extra meetings, participated in special conference calls, and truly stepped up to the plate to make things happen for VLN. Sue Pontinen and Martha Delaney accepted new roles with the organization and, together with all the amazing staff, have pulled us through this challenging time. Now that we feel we are on solid footing again, it will be wonderful to see what the next season brings!



Alysia Zens
2008-2009 Board Chair



Alysia Zens
Board Chair

continuing the vision

In June 2009, the Board of Directors approved a **new strategic plan and mission** to guide VLN's work for the next five years. During the preceding months, the hard-working Strategic Planning Committee met regularly to discuss how best to provide

Our mission is to promote access to justice and the administration of justice by providing legal services to low-income people primarily in Hennepin County through volunteer lawyers.

high quality legal services to low-income persons and promote measurable, positive client outcomes. In assessing VLN's strengths and challenges and the community's needs, the Committee consulted with board members, executive officers of the HCBA, pro bono coordinators, other legal services providers, judicial officers, fundraising consultants, and VLN staff.

The resulting Strategic Plan focuses our resources on ensuring basic human needs. We continue

our commitment to **full representation services** while emphasizing the provision of **brief legal services** at our legal clinics. To support the ongoing strength of VLN as an organization, the plan updates VLN's governance documents to include best practices for effective and efficient governance, and also sets forth objectives for attracting and retaining quality staff. Finally, to ensure that VLN maintains its direction, the Executive Director will work closely with the Board Secretary to further implement VLN's vision.

Thank you to the Strategic Planning Committee for all its dedication and hard work.

VLN's Strategic Plan may be viewed online at www.volunteerlawyersnetwork.org

vln staff



Suzanne Pontinen
Executive Director

Martha Delaney
Assistant Executive Director

Sharon Boodoo
Director of Administration

Nancy Nguyen
Administrative Coordinator

Tom Walsh
Resource Attorney

Christy Szitta
Resource Attorney

Anne Hoyt Taff
VISTA Attorney

Glen Drew
Clinics Coordinator
Case Placement Coordinator

Milca Dominguez de Corral*
Linea Legal Latina Administrator

Bill Dooley
Case Placement Coordinator

Greg Rachwal*
Case Placement Coordinator

Bill Chang
Case Placement Coordinator

Molly Irwin
Intake Specialist

Tricia Bogle
Intake Specialist

Diana Villella Larson*
Linea Legal Latina Manager

Kristopher Hagan
Linea Legal Latina Administrator

Heidi Huber
Volunteer Liaison
CPC Data Manager

*Not Pictured



Peter Goss
Faegre & Benson LLP

volunteer of the year

For **Peter Goss**, it started fresh out of law school in 1995. His growing interest in housing law led to a training course taught by Larry McDonough and a passion to provide legal counsel to low-income tenants that has lasted to this day.

In addition to the foundation of knowledge Larry provided in the course, Peter described him as "just an incredible person," someone who "motivated me and inspired me to **get involved and stay involved**".

Branching out into a new area of law can be intimidating, and Peter really appreciated not only the education, but also the encouragement that Larry gave him. "His whole attitude about it was '**look, you can do this**,' even if this isn't your **normal practice**. You can help make a big difference in people's lives."

When low-income tenants face eviction, the impact of experienced legal counsel cannot be overstated. Clients are "dealing with tremendous burdens, tremendous stress, very little money, and the devastating prospect of being out on the street". These extreme circumstances can be overwhelming, especially for clients forced to represent themselves because of financial hardships. Volunteers are able to **meet with clients** face to face, **hear their stories** and help **guide them** through the legal process step by step. For Peter, meeting their needs is its own reward. "I've never had more **grateful clients** than people that I've represented in housing disputes."

In addition to his own pro bono work, Peter has also become a mentor to young associates. His willingness to brainstorm and help them navigate through difficult landlord/tenant cases helps smooth their transition into housing law, and his encouragement to new volunteers is indispensable. We are **proud** to recognize his commitment to service, and honor his volunteer achievements.

Clients are dealing with tremendous burdens, tremendous stress, very little money, and the devastating prospect of being out on the street.

... help make a big difference in people's lives.

distinguished service award

Ask **Patrick Burns** why he's spent more than 25 years working to expand access to **justice**, and he'll tell you with a chuckle: "You know, the danger of having your voice heard is that people actually then put you to work!" Talk with him a bit more, and you'll realize that

... a leader in providing
pro bono services, an
organization that people
will look to for how things
ought to be done.

It's his passion for the work that has kept Patrick invested in VLN for every one of those years.

For Patrick, the motivation comes from knowing that for "some people out there, there is no justice, from their perspective. They just don't see it. They think they're shut out. And you **try to**

help them understand that **they do have a shot at being heard.**"

As a volunteer with VLN right after graduation from law school, Patrick was able to do exactly that. In one memorable case, a man being denied supervised visits with his young daughter was not only granted custody, but was also cleared of charges of abuse. "That was one where the facts really cried out for a reversal. If that had been ignored I don't know what would have happened to that young girl, but it would not have been good."

In addition to this early pro bono work, Patrick has been a **constant source of leadership** here at VLN, offering advice and guidance to the organization throughout the years. "It's really evolved into a very impressive organization and one that I think has become a leader in providing pro bono services. It's an organization that people will look to for how things ought to be done." While there are many legal services and nonprofit organizations doing excellent work in Minnesota, Patrick feels that:

"VLN's scope is quite a bit broader than many others. They are the... safety net for anybody who falls through the cracks. You can go to VLN, and they will be able to help."



Patrick Burns
Office of Lawyers
Professional Responsibility

Areas of Law

Administrative

Bankruptcy

Civil

Criminal
Expungement

Debtor/Creditor

Employment

Family
(Adoption, Custody,
Marital Dissolution)

Immigration

Landlord/Tenant

Real Estate

Unemployment
Compensation



SAVING TESSA from homelessness

Tessa (not her real name) had lived in her duplex for nearly fifty years. After her husband died, and the tenant moved out, she began having trouble making the mortgage payments. Just as her home was headed for foreclosure, scam artists offered her a so-called mortgage refinancing agreement.

However, the agreement she signed didn't refinance her home but put all her equity into an "escrow" fund under the control of one of the scammers. Almost immediately, the scammers pocketed a third of the equity. They then sold Tessa's property (without her knowledge) to extract the remaining equity. At the same time, the scammers collected an additional \$12,100 in fraudulent "mortgage" payments from her. By the time Tessa learned the truth, she had lost her home and nearly \$160,000 in equity.

VLN lawyers doggedly pursued the scammers and took the case to trial. They saved Tessa from homelessness and recovered a significant portion of her equity. She now has her own apartment and money to pay her rent for years to follow.

Fighting Fraud - Helping Ali with his Unemployment Claim

When Ali's employer laid him off for lack of work, they wanted to avoid paying unemployment compensation (UC). They asked Ali, whose English is limited, to sign a document that he had voluntarily quit his position. Ali refused and filed for UC.

However, for no reason he could understand, Ali was told that the state had denied his claim. Why? The employer had submitted a signed statement saying that Ali voluntarily ended his employment! Ali came to a VLN walk-in legal clinic seeking help.

The attorney immediately saw that it was not Ali's signature on the form. The attorney also saw that Ali had accidentally completed the wrong online form when trying to request a reconsideration. With the help of a trained clinic assistant who found phone numbers and legal resources, the attorney sent a fax to the state explaining the error. The state reopened Ali's file. The attorney also wrote a letter to the judge on Ali's behalf stating the issues and referencing the evidence. Ali was finally able to get a fair hearing on his claim.

Volunteer Lawyers Network was established in 1966 by 28 lawyers who believed that everyone deserves access to competent legal representation – regardless of economic or social standing.



Tom Walsh
Resource Attorney

staff perspective

Clients visiting one of the many VLN community clinics often need assistance with a wide variety of legal issues. This broad range of need means volunteer attorneys may encounter legal problems that are not their principal area of law. However, with the assistance and guidance of Resource Attorneys like **Tom Walsh**, volunteer attorneys are equipped with real support, training and tools to effectively navigate new areas.

...there's always a need for more volunteers.

Tom Walsh is the Resource Attorney specializing in **family and bankruptcy law**, VLN's two areas of greatest need. Volunteers are well acquainted with Tom and his down to earth mentoring style. He attentively answers questions, provides useful resources, organizes relevant trainings and CLEs, develops new and expanded services and provides timely support to volunteers, clinics and VLN staff.

Tom joined VLN in 2005 with the AmeriCorps' Pro Bono Legal Corps program working to engage volunteers in providing legal services to low income and disadvantaged communities. Tom's AmeriCorps project provided a natural transition into his current role as a Resource Attorney. Deeply rooted in the belief that **VLN clients should receive the same level of service as paying clients**, he organizes and manages a comprehensive array of resources focused on building volunteer confidence in accepting family law and bankruptcy cases and fitting pro bono clients into their practice.

To keep his skills sharp, Tom also maintains a small caseload. Reflecting, he recalls a particular case involving a grandmother who needed help ensuring that the child custody rights she had fought for in Illinois would be enforced in Minnesota. Her granddaughter had been living in squalor with an untreated rash on her scalp. Tom's client was able to give her granddaughter a loving and safe home; however, she lived in fear that the child's mother would come and take the child and there would be nothing she could do about it. Tom made sure the Illinois order was registered in Minnesota and obtained a court order to enforce it. Tom remembers, "You could almost see a burden lifted off her shoulders when she received the order" adding, "many times even a relatively simple case is not approachable by someone on their own, without the help of an attorney."

VLN is the last resort for many people who would get no services but for the existence of VLN and its network of pro bono attorneys.

VLN is fortunate to have many of the best family and bankruptcy attorneys already volunteering, though Tom still has his work cut out for him recruiting new volunteers to meet the challenges of the ever increasing need in these areas. "There's always a need for more volunteers," says Tom. When we find them, Tom Walsh will make sure they have everything they need to help clients receive the **access to justice** they deserve.

línea legal latina

Línea Legal Latina (LLL) is a VLN program serving the legal needs of the low-income Spanish-speaking people of Minnesota. Since it first began serving the Latino community

Bilingual volunteer attorneys and phone intake workers allow us to expand our services and voice in the Latino community.

in 2005, LLL has continued to **grow and expand**.

None of this would have been possible without the continuous support of our collaborators, our community partners, and especially our dedicated volunteers.

Celebrating its third anniversary in 2008 included expanding the client line, adding a Thursday evening clinic, establishing a monthly Pro Se Family Law Workshop, and engaging in new outreach opportunities to raise awareness of the legal resources available to the Latino community.

During this same period, the number of clients served has greatly increased. With the support of volunteer attorneys, paralegals and law students, LLL served 1,272 clients in 2008-2009 — more than double the previous year! This **tremendous growth** highlights not only

the dedication of volunteers, but also the need to continuously recruit new attorneys to meet the large demand for legal services in the Spanish-speaking community.

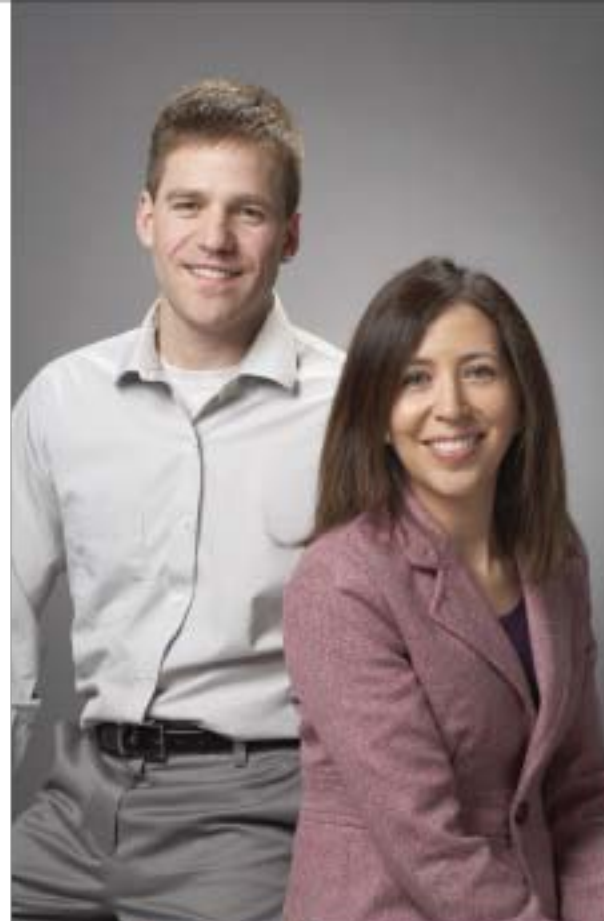
Recently LLL has expanded its coordinated legal services for Spanish-speaking individuals to a **statewide level**, reaching clients not only in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, but also in Dakota, Anoka, Scott, and others. While most of LLL's clients do reside in the metropolitan

area, counties with small Hispanic communities may not have developed extensive community resources, making LLL even more valuable to their residents.

LLL outreach events include the Cinco de Mayo Festival in West St. Paul, the Festival de la Calle Lake in Minneapolis, and the "Know Your Rights Seminar" with NEDA.

LLL hopes to see continued growth in outreach to small outstate hispanic communities.

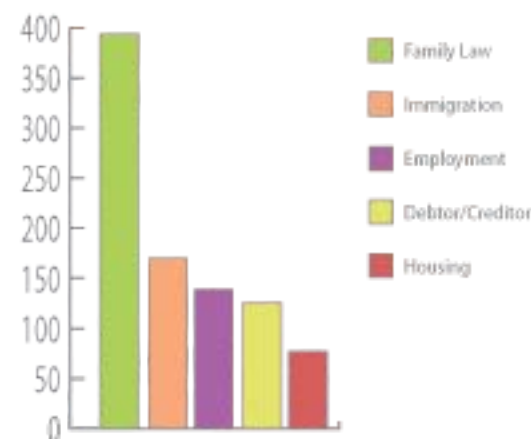
We owe a great deal of gratitude to our volunteers who have supported LLL since its inception.



According to Suzanne Tresnak, "There are so many steps in the legal process, and it's very complex even for a person who speaks English. LLL really holds their hand and makes their lives a lot easier. It is so rewarding for me to see their relief, as they leave our office with peace of mind."

pictured:
Kristopher Hagan
LLL Administrator
Suzanne Tresnak
LLL Manager

TOP FIVE LEGAL ISSUES



LLL provided telephone advice to over 700 clients.

CONTRIBUTORS 2008-2009

SERVICE GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS

Central Minnesota Legal Services
Hennepin County Bar Association
Lawyers Trust Account Board
LegalCORPS
Legal Services Advisory
Committee
MN State Bar Association
Greater Twin Cities United Way
U.S. District Court

FOUNDATIONS

Briggs and Morgan Foundation
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
Faegre & Benson Foundation
FBA Foundation, MN Chapter
Fredrikson & Byron Foundation
Gannett Foundation
Hennepin County Bar Foundation
Leonard, Street and Deinard
Foundation
Martin & Brown Foundation
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciesi
LLP Private Foundation
Thomson Reuters Foundation

IN KIND DONATIONS

Acme Comedy Club
Patrick Burns
Trudi Busch
Robin Caneff Gipson
Kim Currents
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Jennifer Doyle
Leslie Durham
Ele-ment Data Group
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Hennepin County Bar Association
Bricker Lavick
Martha Lepore
Lexis Nexis
Peter Mathison
Jim Russell
Amy Saylor
Christina Saitta
U.S. Bank

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Aafedt, Ford, Gray, Monson &
Hager, P.A.
Best Buy
Best & Flanagan LLP
Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
Doran Law Office
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Faegre & Benson LLP
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Gray Plant Mooty

Halleland, Lewis, Nilan & Johnson
Henson & Efron, P.A.
Leonard, Street and Deinard
Lindquist & Vennum PLLP
Merchant & Gould P.C.
Messinger & Ojile PLLP
Peralta & Peralta, Ltd.
Sieben, Grose, Von Holtum & Carey,
Ltd.
Thomson West
Walling, Berg & Debele, P.A.
Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason
LLP

MATCHING GIFTS

Ameriprise Financial
Honeywell HomeTown Solutions
USBancorp Foundation
Best Buy Foundation

JOHN LEVINE MEMORIAL

Edward Aich
Jeffrey & Amy Aich
Tom & Arlene Alm
Leslie Anderson
Avin Apple
Stuart Bear
Elizabeth Beck
Judith Bell
Richard & Carol Berg
Steven & Susan Berkowitz
Paul Birkeland
Jon & Holly Brod Farber
Ronald Brown
Alexander & Marilyn Caplan
Steven E. Carlson
Kathleen Coppo
Ronald & Joan Cornwell
Rita Cowin
Stewart & Sheila Derechin
Kathleen Desmond Short
Robert Dwyer, Jr.
Lila Eakins
Gordon Eid
Mae Nandf Ellingson
Linda Feldman
George & Anne Flannery
Suzanne Flotten
Bernard & Zoe Friedberg
Gerfinkel Family
Sherman & Mimi Gleekel
Herbert Goldenberg
Lorraine Hasselquist
Peter & Carolyn Hendrixson
Stephen & Ruth Holmes
William & Andrea Johnstone
Barbara Kirschner

Matt & Laura Kushner
Alan & Vivian Laites
Douglas & Carol Lemons
James Levine
Jemold & Ruth Levine
John & Marcia Levine
Tom & Rachel Levy
Russell & Avis Lindquist
Phyllis Long
Philip & Madeleine Lowry
Stanley Malmon
Philip Martin
Warren & Naomi Maul
Minneapolis Foundation (Walt &
Elizabeth Bachman Fund)
James & Janice Moe
Mort & Alice Mortenson
Brian & Julia Palmer
Stuart & Judith Passon
Wendy Peterson
Peggy Plummer
David & Judith Ranzheim
Rochelle Reichert
Ruth Reister
Robert Jensen Law Offices
Aron & Ellen Rohnitzky
M.W. & M.M. Scherzer
Michael & Ann Sheehan
Marianne Short
Jeffrey & Eileen Silver
Robert & Suzanne Silverman
Howard Simon
Peter Sipkins
Ginger Sisco
Phil & Sharon Stryder
Warren & Marjorie Spannaus
Cynthia Stalock
Elaine Steinman
M. Thomas & Liba Stillman
Andrew & Mindy Stone
David Stone
Judith Stone
James & Leslie Strohm
Michael & Sandra Swinoff
Chalm & Katie White
William & Shirley Whitlock
Perry Wilson III
John Windhorst, Jr.
David & Susan Wolfe
James & Julie Yarosh
Alysa Zens
Asher & Jill Zipkin

John Levine Memorial Matching
Gift on behalf of
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation

GOLD LEVEL

Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Faegre & Benson LLP
Halleland Lewis Nilan &
Johnson
Henson & Efron, P.A.
Leonard, Street and Deinard
Lindquist & Vennum PLLP
Maslon Edelman Borman &
Brand, LLP
Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly
LLP
Patterson, Thuermer, Skaar &
Christensen
Pauly, DeVries-Smith & Deffner,
L.L.C.
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciesi
LLP
Schwegman, Lundberg &
Woessner, P.A.
Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason
LLP

SILVER LEVEL

Roy Ginsburg, JD

BRONZE LEVEL

Best & Flanagan LLP
Binder Law Offices
Greenstein, Mabley & Wall, LLC
Unger Law Office
Walling, Berg & Debele, P.A.

SENIOR PARTNER LEVEL

Sheri Ahl
Marna Anderson
James Baillie
Angela Bohmann
Suzanne Born
Donna-Marie Boulay
Patrick Burns
Jonathan Bye
Karen Canon
Rebecca Chaffee
Clinton E. Cutler
Clara Davis
Kate Devries-Smith
Mel Dickstein
Larry Espel
Shannon Fitzpatrick
Thomas Fraser
John Gordon
Peter Goss
Joyanne Hamilton
Dan Herber

founding members

ASSOCIATE LEVEL

Kevin Hofman
Katherine Kelly
Bruce Kennedy
Michelle Knies
James Langdon II
Laurel Learmonth
Kim Myrdahl
Kathleen Newman
Fried Ojile
Robin Preble
Dennis Ryan
Glenn Schwartz
Nancy Sullivan
Debra Swaden
Brooke Swenson
Hon. James Swenson
Christina Saitta
Daniel Tyson
Dawn VanTassel
Armando Vilchez
Mark Vyvyan
Quentin Wittrock
Alysa Zens

PARTNER LEVEL

Peggy Abram
Frank Abramson
JC Anderson
Thomas Borgen
Bruce Candlin
Martha Delaney
Nancy DiPasquale
Joseph Dixon
Sharifa Elaraj
Fay E. Fishman
William Ford
Joe Genereux
Jeffrey Hedlund
William Howard
Nicole Friedrichs-Jackson
Carol Lansing
Thomas Lynch
C. Scott Massie
Brian Melendez
Christopher Morris
Dennis L. Peterson
Suzanne Pontinen
Scott Russell
Duane Stanley
Aaron & Nena Street
James Strommen
Deborah Swenson
Bradley Thorsen
Mary Vasaly
Timothy Verner
Pam Wandzel

2009 MEMBERS

Jeffrey Anderson
John Baldrice
Matt Boos
Bowman & Brooke
Caldwell & Forno
Robin Caneff Gipson
Mark Carter
Ford Law Firm
David Galle
Robert Glance
Peter Gorman
Nicole Jackson
John Koneck
Bricker Lavick
Anne Loring
James Lynch
Frank Mabley
Hon. Tanja Manrique
Kathleen Murphy
Timothy O'Brien
James Patterson
Peterson & Fishman, PLLP
Melissa Pytel
Rebecca Schiller
Jeffrey Schlesinger
Michael Scott
Michael Skoglund
Andrea Specht
Ellen Van Iwaarden
Janice Wald

individual contributions

Miki Aden
Larry & Elizabeth Alexander
John M. Anderson
Lauren Anderson
Leslie Anderson
Craig Andressen
David Baratti
Dana Bartocci
Lois Bartz
John Beattie
Colleen Beebe
Julie Bennett
Larry Berg
Tye Bisco
Jodie Boderman
Andrea Bond
Dorena-Marie Boulay
Charles Boyer
Christopher Bradley
Charity Brand
Craig Brandt
Jeffrey Brockmann
Patrick Burns
Jonathon Bye
Robin Caneff Gipsen
Karen Canon
Andrew Carlson
Mark Carter
Eric Chadwick
James Christensen
Lea Christoffer
Daniel Cole
Raina Comp
Angela Compton
Thomas Conley
Carlynn Crowdale
Lauren Culbert
Michael Cunningham
Kim Currents
Sandra Dank
Geetha Daschewang
Georganna Davies
Sandi De Boom
Thomas De Boom
John Dagnan
Kate DeVries-Smith
Jeffrey Diebel
Mark DiPietro
Joseph Dixon
Sandra Dolbels
Susan Dooley
Valerie Drinane
David Durick
Alan Edness
Larry Espe
William Fisher
Katherine Flom
Loretta Flynn
William Forsyth
Duke Foster
Thomas Fraser
Sharon Freier
Susan Gallagher
David Galle
Kathleen Gebler
Joe Genereux
David Gilchrist
Roy Ginsburg
Karl Gluck
Jane Godfrey

Cindy Goedel
Dan Goldberg
David Gollin
Candee Goodman
Mark Gray
Dan Gustafson
Amy Hagen
Kim Haley
James Haller
Carolyn Ham
Samuel Hanson
Krista Hatcher
Catherine Haukadal
Rochelle Hauser
Max Haerman
Laura Hein
Dan Heiber
Valerie Heming
Stephanie Hill
Karin Holt
Kelly Hudick
Timothy Ikeman
Tony Jackson
Geraldine Jeffery
Thomas L. Johnson
Lori Anne Jones
Sara Jones
Ruth Josa
Monica Kaeding
Natalie Kadewitch
Daniel Kadlec
Joyce Kanel
Steve Kern
Erin Keyes
Olina Khaled
Laurie Ann Knoke
Laura Krishnan
Muriel Kruger
Susan Lach
Cindy Lara
Hon. Gary Larson
Kristen Larson
Laurel Laarmann
Andrew Leo
John Levy
April Lott
Jeffrey Maas
Daniel Mabley
Roderick Mackenzie
Alan MacIn
Hon. Tanja Manrique
Richard Mark
Elizabeth Martin
Peter Mathison
Jayne McCoy
Larry McDonough
Jeffrey McNaught
Richard McNeil
Jinjer Menge
Nicole Moen
Andrew Moran
Hon. Dan Moreno
Timothy Morgan
Judith Morris
Thomas Muck
Daniel Nelson
Jonathan Nygren
Fay Ojile
Naomi Olsen

John Orenstein
Torja Orr
Stephen Parsons
Thomas Partillon
Katherine Perrone
Jamie & Jean Peters
Douglas Peterson
Suzanne Portinen
Richard Primuth
Steven Prince
Brandon Protokowicz
Laura Provizino
Sharon Rakow
Chris Rauschi
Karl Reysen
Gabriela Reyes-Royola
Debra Richardson
Christianne Roppel
Kristi Rudelius-Palmer
Sherry Sanders
Lindsay Saunders
Patrick Sauter
Margaret Savage
Karen Schreiber
Miriam Schultz
Paula Schulte
Daniel Schwartz
David Selegenren
Mark Siegel
James Simonson
Kimberly Spates
Andrea Specht
Linda Spotts
Annie Stafford
Gregory Stenmo
John Stern
Sandra Sundem
Debra Swaden
Brooke Swenson
Christina Sutta
Maggie Totton
Lynette Thayer
Thompson West
Leon Trawick
Suzanne Tresnak
Robert Tunheim
Don Tyson
Mary Vavaly
Ulrika Vetteson
Armando Vlicher
Leland Watson
Edward Wegerson
Lori Lee Weise-Parks
Emily Weiler
Thomas Winkler
Jane M. Williams
Mark Williamson
Suzanne Winkel
Ryan Winkler
Mark Wiser
Jennifer Woollet
Elizabeth Zarow
Alysa Zera

Mark Luther in remembrance of
James Dickinson

State Bar of Wisconsin in honor of
Patrick Burns

financial report july 1, 2008 - june 30, 2009

2008 - 2009 Audited Financial Statement

INCOME

Grants	413,393.00
Contributions	385,101.00
Special Events	22,736.00
Workshops & Seminars	8,212.00
Interest	3,014.00

Total Income 832,456.00



EXPENSES

Program & Services	598,720.00
Management & General	129,057.00
Fundraising	106,130.00
Total Expenses	833,907.00



balance sheet june 30, 2009

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	134,849.00
Accounts Receivables	128,678.00
Prepaid Expenses	5,608.00
Net Property & Equipment	75,416.00
Other Assets	4,568.00

Total Assets 349,119.00

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Payroll Liabilities	41,639.00
Accounts Payable	842.00
Net Assets	306,638.00
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	349,119.00



Thank you to our many contributors, sponsors, members and community partners who have so generously given to assist in the continued work of VLN. Your support helps us provide life-changing access to justice for so many living in poverty in our communities.

year at a glance

Volunteer Lawyers Network's pro bono volunteers

assisted more than **6,000 clients** during 2008-2009 with a variety of legal issues including:

- **Garnishment** as creditors become more aggressive, claiming income and assets protected by law.
- **Default judgments** that are at an all time high – often without debtor notification or representation.
- **Medical debt** that is rising sharply due to layoffs and lack of insurance.
- **Domestic violence** is always a problem but on the rise in these turbulent economic times.
- **Child custody issues** as this period of instability and stress threatens child safety and care,

organized **4,977 one-on-one service clinic** consultations in housing, family, youth, and consumer law, and provided telephone **legal advice to 1,423 clients.***

*TOP AREAS OF LAW (in descending order)

Consumer
Family
Housing
Immigration
Employment

*TOP COUNTIES SERVED (in descending order)

Hennepin
Ramsey
Dakota
Anoka

TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Advice: 5,881
Brief Services: 873
Full Rep: 340

*includes LLL services



board of directors

Alysia Zens, Chair*
Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Jon Bye, Vice Chair*
Lindquist & Vennum PLLP

Fred Ojile, Secretary*
Messinger & Ojile PLLP

Laurel Learmonth,
Treasurer*
Primus Law Office, P.A.

Robin Caneff Gipson,
Past Chair*
Briggs and Morgan,
Professional Association

Matt Boos
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

Karen Canon*
US Bank

Mark Carter
Carter Legal Services PA

Kate DeVries Smith
Pauly, DeVries Smith &
Deffner, LLC.

Nancy DiPasquale*
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund

David Galle
Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly
LLP

Peter Goss
Faegre & Benson LLP

* Denotes Executive Committee Member

Bricker Lavik
Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Honorable Tanja Manrique
Fourth Judicial District Court

Larry McDonough
Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance

Robin Preble
Target Corporation

Tim Shields
Shields Legal Services PA

Kimberly A. Spates
African American Men Project

Douglas Stafford
Client Representative

Debra Lozoff Swaden
Fourth Judicial District Court

Brooke C. Swenson
Briggs and Morgan,
Professional Association

Dan Tyson
Best & Flanagan LLP

Armando Vilchez
Fourth Judicial District Court

Mark Vyvyan
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

HCBA REPRESENTATIVE
Christopher Morris
Bassford Remele

LEGAL AID REPRESENTATIVE
Catharine Haukedahl
Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance

We need to focus
the vast resources
of the private bar to
address the huge
injustices in our
community...

**VLN makes
that possible.**

Volunteer Lawyers Network
extends its warmest
gratitude and
appreciation to John
Mowers and Unleashed
Productions for his
generosity, great eye and
the wonderful talent he has
given to this project.

A special thank you to
contributing writer David
DiPasquale.



VOLUNTEER LAWYERS NETWORK

600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390A
Minneapolis, MN 55402

VLN Admin Line 612-752-6655
VLN Client/Intake Line 612-752-6677
LLL Client Line 651-379-4223
www.volunteerlawyersnetwork.org

Our mission is to promote
access to justice and the
administration of justice
by providing legal
services to low-income
people primarily in
Hennepin County through
volunteer lawyers.

