

Volunteer Lawyers Network  
**CONNECTING  
CLIENTS IN  
NEED WITH  
VOLUNTEER  
LAWYERS**



VOLUNTEER LAWYERS NETWORK

600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390A  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities MN  
Permit No. 5794

VLN Admin. Line 612-752-6655

VLN Client/Intake Line 612-752-6677

Spanish Legal Services Intake Line 651-379-4223

[www.volunteerlawyersnetwork.org](http://www.volunteerlawyersnetwork.org)



DONATE TO VLN

**ARE YOU  
READY...**



VOLUNTEER LAWYERS NETWORK  
Annual Report 2011 - 2012

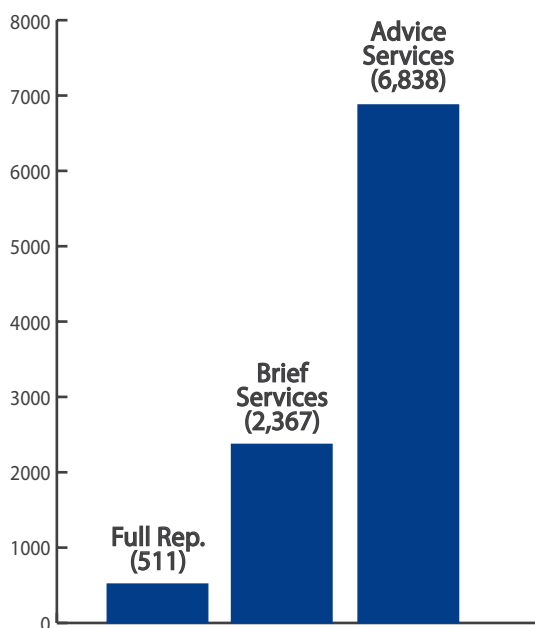




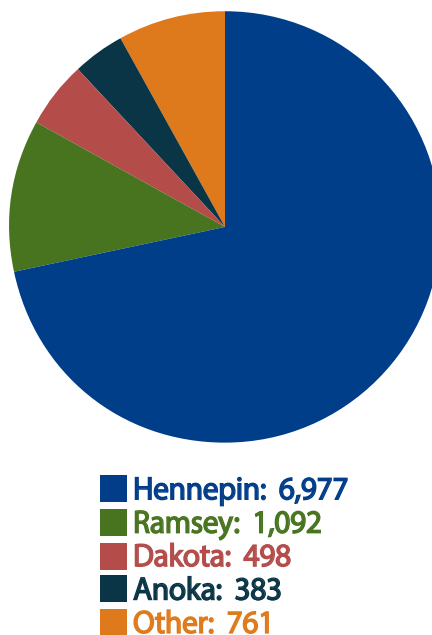
# TO MEET A CHAMPION?

VLN's mission is to promote access to justice and the administration of justice by providing legal services to low-income people through volunteer lawyers.

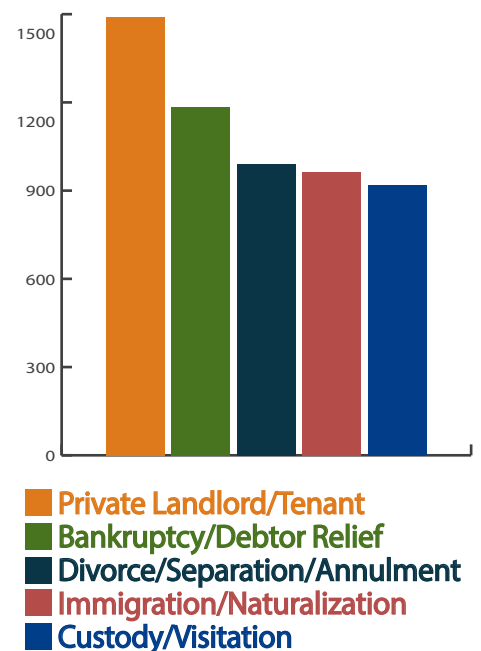
## TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED



## TOP COUNTIES SERVED



## TOP AREAS OF LAW





# VLN'S CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE



## PAUL

### Protecting basic survival? Priceless.

Retired and on limited income, Paul was struggling to make his debt payments. Then one debt collector, ignoring federal law, started seizing hundreds of dollars a month from his social security. Frantically, Paul started alternating which essential bills he paid and called VLN. Our attorney called the debt collector, cited federal law, and made the garnishments stop. VLN's debtors' rights services, including letters to creditors and garnishment exemptions, complement VLN's bankruptcy services and serve an additional 200 clients per year.



VLN has 854 active volunteer attorneys this year.

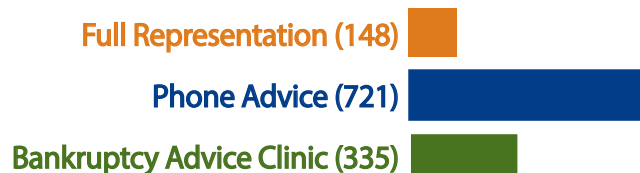


## COURTNEY

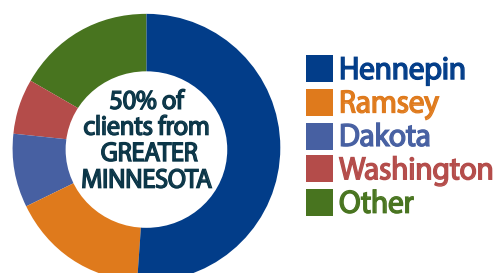
### "VLN gave me hope, gave me a chance to start over."

Working as well as going to nursing school, VLN client Courtney was building a better life for herself and three children when tragedy struck. A fire in her apartment destroyed everything – and she was charged \$30,000 for the damage. VLN volunteer Brea Buettner Stanchfield helped Courtney file for bankruptcy protection allowing her a fresh start. For people like Courtney, bankruptcy can prevent years of stagnant poverty. Committed to ensuring justice for all, VLN strategically leverages volunteer resources and time to increase bankruptcy services in dozens of counties statewide.

#### BANKRUPTCY SERVICES PROVIDED



#### CLIENTS RECEIVING BANKRUPTCY BY COUNTY







## MICHELLE EGAN BURKE

“It is a joy to use my time and talent to take away the fears of deportation suffered by so many deserving families.”

Many VLN champions are veteran attorneys with skills and knowledge honed over years of practice. A handful even help more VLN clients than their own paying clients. Volunteer of the Year Michelle Egan Burke, newly retired from a 30-year federal career, volunteers a full day every week at VLN's Spanish Legal Services Program. In 2011 alone, she provided more than 160 legal services to help the most vulnerable of the poor, including those who can't speak English. Michelle continues to be a valued mentor and tireless community educator.



Spanish Legal Services provided 410 Immigration services (107 of these were brief services).



## TOM TINKHAM

“If you are a lawyer, public service is just something you do, using your training to provide a public benefit.”

Forty-six years ago, attorney John Levine helped establish Volunteer Lawyers Network. And this year's John D. Levine Distinguished Service Award Recipient, Tom Tinkham, has been stoking the fire ever since. From securing the funding to hire VLN's first paid staff, to serving on (and chairing) the board, to convening a powerful group of benefactors that now contribute to 10% of VLN's annual income, he has championed access to justice throughout his distinguished career. VLN staff admire Tom's formidable legal skills and willingness to help hundreds of VLN clients.



Tom Tinkham assisted 93 clients in 2011.





## THANK YOU VLN SUPPORTERS

Last year, VLN volunteers helped more than 8,000 clients and their families – 25,000 people overall – navigate our courts, maintain safe housing, protect themselves from abusers, obtain relief from crushing debt, and improve their circumstances by asserting their rights under the law. In a time when one in four Minnesotans are considered “near poor” and living on the brink of poverty, the demand for pro bono legal services has never been greater.

While we celebrate our accomplishments in this report, the need remains great. Too many residents of Hennepin County and Greater Minnesota have limited access to justice because of their limited means. Fortunately, thanks to your generosity and the hard work of our staff and volunteers, VLN is reaching more clients and improving more lives than ever before. We sincerely thank you for supporting VLN’s strong and innovative programming that has made such a difference in our community.

Peter Goss  
Board Chair

Suzanne Pontinen  
Executive Director



## MOLLY IRWIN

“I want our clients to know we have their back and can help them through this tough time.”

Job loss, high medical costs, and aggressive collection tactics have driven many to a financial crisis. Protecting basic human needs includes giving them access to bankruptcy protection. Meet Molly Irwin, the lynchpin who transformed a finite amount of volunteer attorney time into 148 bankruptcies this year and growing. Providing intake, client management, guidance to co-workers and document gathering oversight, her kind and steady behind-the-scenes leadership is fueled by her belief that we need to take care of each other.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Goss (Chair), Kate DeVries Smith (Vice Chair/Treasurer), J. Alison Morris (Secretary), Fred Ojile (Past-Chair)

Jon Bye, Karen Canon, Mark Carter, Jeremy Carvell, Jennifer L. Doyle, Skip Durocher, Sam Glover, Marcy L. Harris, Esq., Sten-Erik Hoidal, Inchan J. Hwang, Laurel Learmonth, Judge Laurie Miller, Mark Schneebeck, Tim Shields, Michael L. Skoglund, Douglas Stafford, Debra Lozoff Swaden, Brooke C. Swenson, Mark Vyvyan, Alysia Zens

HCBA Representative: Thomas D. Jensen, Legal Aid Representative: Greg Marita

# CONTRIBUTORS

We appreciate the financial support of each of our supporters. Your generosity makes our work possible. Thank you!

## Community Supporters

3M  
Anthony Ostlund Baer & Louwagie P.A.  
Arthur, Chapman, Kettering, Smetak & Pikala, P.A.  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
Bassford Remele  
Best & Flanagan LLP  
Cargill, Inc.  
Dorsey & Whitney LLP  
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP  
Fish & Richardson P.C.  
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.  
General Mills, Inc.  
Gray Plant Mooty  
Greene Espel, P.L.L.P.  
Henson & Efron, P.A.  
Kelly and Hannah, P.A.  
Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren Ltd.  
Leonard, Street and Deinard  
LexisNexis  
Lind, Jensen, Sullivan & Peterson, P.A.  
Lindquist & Vennum PLLP  
Lommen, Abdo, Cole, King & Stageberg, P.A.  
Mackall, Crounse & Moore PLC  
Mazzitelli Law Office  
McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn & Lamb, Chartered  
Medica  
Medtronic, Inc.  
Messerli & Kramer P.A.  
Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance  
Minnesota State Bar Association - Administrative Law Section  
Minnesota State Bar Association - Bankruptcy Section  
Minnesota State Bar Association - Public Law Section  
Minnesota State Bar Association - Public Utilities Section  
Minnesota Volunteer Attorney Program  
Nichols Kaster, PLLP  
Nilan Johnson Lewis, P.A.  
Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP  
Patterson Thunte Christensen Pedersen, P.A.  
Quazar Capital Corporation  
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P.  
TCF National Bank  
Thomson Reuters  
United States District Court, District of Minnesota  
U.S. Bank  
U.S. Bank Legal Department  
U.S. Bank The Private Client Reserve  
UnitedHealth Group  
Wells Fargo  
Xcel Energy  
Zelle Hofmann Voebel & Mason LLP

## Foundations

American College of Bankruptcy Foundation  
Briggs and Morgan Foundation  
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation  
Faegre Baker Daniels Foundation  
Federal Bar Association Foundation, Minnesota Chapter  
Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon & Vogt Foundation  
Gray Plant Mooty Foundation  
Hennepin County Bar Foundation  
Leonard, Street and Deinard Foundation  
Littler Mendelson Foundation, Inc.  
Mardag Foundation  
Martin and Brown Foundation  
Otto Bremer Foundation  
RBC Foundation - USA  
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P. Private Foundation  
The Saint Paul Foundation  
TCF Foundation

## Matching Gifts

Best Buy Co., Inc.  
Honeywell  
Target Corporation  
UPS  
U.S. Bancorp Foundation  
Xcel Energy

## Service Grants and Partnerships

American College of Bankruptcy  
Central Minnesota Legal Services  
Greater Twin Cities United Way  
Hennepin County Bar Association  
Lawyers Trust Account Board  
Legal Services Advisory Committee  
LegalCORPS

## Individual Contributors

Peggy Abram  
Nikki Aden  
Sheri Ahl  
Larry Alexander  
Pamela Alexander  
Joy Anderson  
James Baillie  
James Barbeau  
Dana Bartocci  
Colleen Beebe  
Patricia Belois  
C. Christopher Bercaw  
Ivy Bernhardson  
Shannon Bjorklund  
Margie Bodas  
Jodie Boderman  
Robert Boisvert  
David Bonestroo  
Thomas Boyd  
Matthew Brown  
Patrick Burns  
Cassondre Buteyn  
Jonathan Bye  
Peter Cahill  
Bruce Candlin  
Karen Canon  
Andrew Carlson  
Kristina Carlson  
Mark Carter  
Jeremy Carvell  
Edward Cassidy  
D. Charles DeVries  
John Clark  
Earl Cohen

Every effort is made to ensure that our list of donors is accurate. If you gave to VLN between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012 and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please accept our sincere apology. Questions? Please call 612-752-6655.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

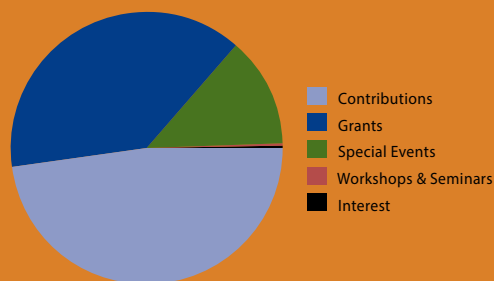
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

2011 - 2012 Audited Financial Statement

## INCOME

Contributions	504,234.00
Grants	404,968.00
Special Events	138,194.00
Workshops & Seminars	2,100.00
Interest	1,849.00

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,051,345.00</b>
---------------------	---------------------



## ASSETS

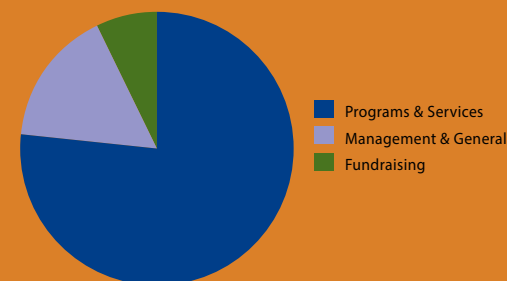
Cash & Cash Equivalents	522,995.00
Accounts Receivables	240,881.00
Prepaid Expenses	24,747.00
Net Property & Equipment	53,110.00

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>841,733.00</b>
---------------------	-------------------

## EXPENSES

Programs & Services	725,795.00
Management & General	151,357.00
Fundraising	67,225.00

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>944,377.00</b>
-----------------------	-------------------



## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Payroll Liabilities	44,397.00
Accounts Payable	9,265.00
Deferred Revenue	27,800.00
Net Assets	760,271.00

<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>841,733.00</b>
---	-------------------

Emily Cooper  
Eric Cooperstein  
Ingrid Culp  
Sandi De Boom  
Thomas DeBoom  
Martha Delaney  
Kate DeVries Smith  
Joseph Dixon  
James Dorsey III  
Jaime Driggs  
Valerie Drinane  
Diane Dube  
Larry Durocher  
Frederick Ebinger  
Sten Erik Hoidal  
Frederick Finch  
Linda Fisher  
William Fisher  
Orlando Flores  
Kyle Fogt  
Amber Foster  
Thomas Fraser  
Michael Friedman  
Kathleen Fulte  
Stefanie Galey  
Linda Gallant  
Thomas Garton  
Joe Genereux  
Sharon Gerrity  
Ann Gifford  
Lisa Gignac  
Samuel Glover  
Daniel Goldberg  
David Goodwin  
Peter Goss  
David Graham  
Mark Haase  
Amy Hagen  
Joyanne Hamilton  
Marcy Harris  
Catharine Haukedahl  
John Hedback  
Jonathan Heinrichs

Dianne Heins  
Jerry Helfand  
Steven Helland  
Beverly Heydinger  
Stephen and Kate Hibbs  
Wallace Hilke  
William Hittler  
Christopher Hunt  
Anthony Ihrig  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Kevin Johnson  
Tad Jude  
Paul Juneke  
Gregory Kaihoi  
Anne Kanyusik  
Douglas Kassebaum  
Erin Keyes  
Dina Khaled  
Sarah Kilbarda  
Nancy Kleeman  
William Koch  
John Koneck  
Mary Krakow  
Muria Kruger  
Ryan Kuhlmann  
Aimee Kwong  
Richard Kyle  
Mark Labine  
Jeremy Lane  
James Langdon  
Carol Lansing  
Jean Lastine  
Bricker Lavik  
Mark Lazar  
Ray Lazar  
Laurel Learmonth  
Susan Ledray  
Ann Lee  
Nathan Lee  
Martha Lepore  
James Levine  
David Lillehaug  
Maria Lindstrom

April Lott  
Nathan Louwagie  
Kimberly Lowe  
Stephen Lucke  
Sean Mahoney  
Emily Maltz  
Tanja Manrique  
Seymour Mansfield  
Greg Marita  
Richard Mark  
Janet Marvin  
C. Scott Massie  
Patrick and Jayne McCoy  
Laurie Miller  
Paul Moe  
Nicole Moen  
Lydia Morley  
Judith Morris  
Cindy Moyer  
John Murphy  
Kimberly Myrdahl  
Adonis Neblett  
Jonathan Nygren  
Fred Ojile  
Jocelyn Olson  
Lynn Olson  
Theodore Patton  
Jean Peters  
Nathan Peters  
Bruce Peterson  
Katie Pfeifer  
Edward Pluimer  
Suzanne Pontinen  
Brandon Protokowicz  
Jane Ranum  
Jeannice Reding  
Jonathan Riehle  
Erin Rohne  
Scott Russell  
Dennis Ryan  
Naften Sadoff  
Asitha Sandanayake  
Joseph Satter

Mark Schneebeck  
Glenn Schwartz  
Tim Shields  
Rhona Shwaid  
Mark Siegel  
Thomas Sipkins  
Michael Skoglund  
Ephraim Sparrow  
Howard Stacker  
Duane Stanley  
Thomas Steichen  
Leo and Christine Stern  
Elizabeth Stoiaken  
John Stout  
Jeffrey Strand  
Rena Sussman  
Debra Swaden  
Brooke Swenson  
James Swenson  
Christina Szitta  
Marshall Tanick  
Becky Thorson  
Thomas Tinkham  
Tracy Tracy  
Daniel Tyson  
Ellen Van Iwaarden  
Kathryn Van Etta-Olson  
Mary Vasaly  
Michael Vitt  
John Vonhof  
Mark Vyvyan  
Thomas Walsh  
Pamela Wandzel  
James Warren  
Edward Wegerson  
Neil Weikart  
Pamela Wiehoff-Kaufman  
Perry Wilson  
John Windhorst  
David and Mary Woodward  
Katrina Zabinski  
Alysia Zens  
Lloyd Zimmerman