



November 12, 2019

NOVEMBER HOUSING LAW UPDATES

Volunteer Lawyers Network Housing Newsletter

In this issue:

- ◆ Upcoming CLE: Common Issues
- ◆ Habitability Funds update!
- ◆ October Housing Case Statistics
- ◆ Event Re-Cap: More Representation Minneapolis Celebration and Round Table
- ◆ Give to the Max Day, 2019

Expanded Habitability Funds!

Did you know that VLN administers a fund which has money available for tenants who can't meet posting requirements to raise a Fritz defense in eviction cases or to bring a rent escrow case? Our funds used to be limited to cases in Minneapolis, but with some new funding, we now have funds available for rental units anywhere in Hennepin county, and we will soon also have funds or cases Ramsey county. Requests for money are capped at two months of rent in Hennepin County and one month rent in Ramsey County and must be used to pursue repair issues. Tenants must be represented by an attorney through VLN or Legal Aid. If you have a client who would benefit from the fund, please contact Muria at 612-752-6647 or muria@vlmn.org.

Common Issue Conversations for VLN Housing Volunteers (CLE)

Please join VLN housing attorneys Steve, Ann and Muria for what we hope will be an engaging discussion on three common eviction issues: **proper plaintiffs, evicting overstaying guests or family members, and proper service.** This CLE is targeted toward current housing volunteers who would like to explore these common issues in a bit more depth, but all interested attorneys are welcome to join us.

Time: 12:00 – 1:00PM

Date: Tuesday December 3, 2019

Location: VLN Administrative Offices
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390A
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Details: **1 Standard CLE credit will be requested**
Drinks Provided; Brown Bags encouraged
RSVP's appreciated but not required
at <https://www.vlmmn.org/events>

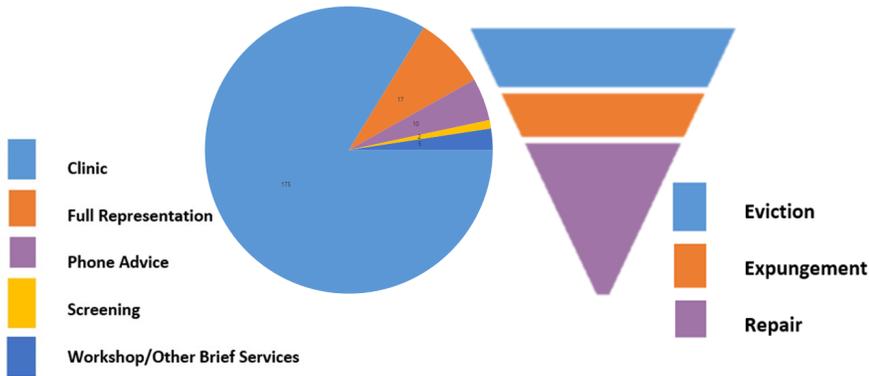


"Eviction isn't just a condition of poverty; it's a cause of poverty." Matthew Desmond

HOUSING UPDATES

One month snapshot of VLN's Housing Law Program: October 2019

Total Housing Law Cases opened in October Full Representation Case Types: October



- **209** total cases were opened in October of this year, as depicted in the pie chart above. The majority were clients seen at the Housing Clinics, but we also placed 17 full representation cases, provided phone advice or limited services, and screened cases for full representation.
- **57** unique volunteers provided services. That doesn't include all of the paralegal and pro bono coordinator support.
- **73** services were provided for clients facing eviction— by far the largest category. The second largest category is eviction expungement, with **64** cases.
- **10** of the cases placed for full representation are for Eviction Expungement. We also placed **3** repair litigation cases and **4** eviction cases.

We couldn't do all this without you!!

Give to the Max Day: November 14

Sam and her family were being evicted. She was late for her early morning eviction hearing because she had no one else to help her get her kids to school. When she finally arrived at the Ramsey Housing Court Clinic, she was distraught and in tears. The eviction had been granted and a writ of recovery had been issued. VLN's clinic assistant, Shawn, got Sam water and then found and made copies of necessary documents. Sam met with a Housing Court Clinic attorney who was able to assist Sam in quashing the writ and getting a new court date. Sam is confident she will have the emergency assistance she needs in place before her next court date.

Sam's story is what happens when pro bono happens.

Please consider giving to VLN on Give to the Max day (Nov. 14). Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar by our generous Board of Directors.

<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Vln>

VLN Housing Law in the Community

We are still excited about the **Celebration and Round Table with Mayor Frey** on the More Representation Minneapolis (MRM) project in October! VLN increased our Housing Volunteer hours 20% in 2019, 2.5 months earlier than expected! Check out media coverage of the event [here](#).



Above, panelists left to right: Katherine Kelly, Assistant Attorney General, Minnesota Attorney General's Office; Kevin Kitchen, MRM volunteer from Stinson LLP; Mayor Jacob Frey; Minneapolis City Councilmember Jeremy Schroeder; Luke Grundman, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid; Donell McDowell, MRM client; Muria Kruger, Volunteer Lawyers Network.

