



February 12, 2020

FEBRUARY HOUSING LAW UPDATES

Volunteer Lawyers Network Housing Newsletter

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Anoka County Housing Court Clinic: **Volunteers Needed!** **New Training (CLE) Date**

VLN's Housing Team is excited to launch another Housing Court Advice Clinic at the Anoka County Courthouse during initial appearance calendars.

Volunteer shifts are Wednesdays (and soon, Mondays!) from 8:30-10:30am at the Anoka County Courthouse. All training will be provided. Previous housing experience is not necessary.

For more information, contact Muria at (612-752-6647) or muria@vlmn.org or register below.

Training Details:

When: March 10, 2:00pm-4:15pm (*new!*)
Where: Anoka County Government Center, Room 705
Who: Attorneys interested in volunteering at the Anoka County Housing Court Clinic
CLE: 2.0 Standard CLE Credits requested
Registration: www.vlmn.org/events
Please email Muria if you would like to participate remotely or view on-demand after the training

VLN's Annual Housing Law Seminar

Thursday, March 26 at Faegre Drinker

2200 Wells Fargo Center, 90 South Seventh Street, Minneapolis
8:30am - 2:30pm, Registration begins at 8:15 (lunch included)

Don't miss it. This year, the agenda includes:

- ◆ Opening remarks by Housing Court Referee Melissa Houghtaling.
- ◆ An update on the nationwide right to counsel in housing movement from Drew Schaeffer, Executive Director at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
- ◆ A discussion on ethical issues in housing representation by Nick Ryan from the Law Offices of Eric T Cooperstein
- ◆ A review of Rule 60.02 motions, appeals and judge reviews by Larry McDonough, pro bono counsel at Dorsey and Whitney
- ◆ Practice Tips for Housing Lawyers by Steve Swanson, VLN Housing Attorney
- ◆ Presentation of our Annual VLN Housing Volunteer and Lawfirm/Corporation of the year award (see back page of this newsletter for information on nominating people for this award).
- ◆ And talks on evictions basics, housing law updates, at more!

4.75 standard CLE credits requested (including 1 ethics credit)

Cost: \$35 for (current volunteers, legal aid lawyers and partners)
\$70 for all others

Registration and more information at www.vlmn.org/events

Now accepting nominations:

VLN's Outstanding Housing Attorney and Law Firm/Corporation Award

Each year, VLN gives out two awards for outstanding service to VLN's Housing Program. One award is to an outstanding individual and the second award is for the organizational efforts of a Law Firm or Corporation. All awardees must be current volunteers of VLN and must have demonstrated a commitment to providing high quality service to low-income tenants seeking housing assistance through VLN.

To nominate an individual or lawfirm/corporation, please submit the attached application, or visit our website at <https://www.vlmn.org/volunteer/housing>.

Nominations are due by noon on Friday, March 13.

HOUSING LAW UPDATES

New Housing Court Referee in Hennepin County

Chief Judge Bernhardson released the following statement last week regarding the appointment of a new Housing Court Referee for Hennepin County to replace retiring Referee Mark Labine:

“I am pleased to announce that the Bench Executive Committee endorsed the appointment of Tiffany Sedillos to be our new Referee. She will start here effective February 24, 2020. Referee Sedillos will preside over both Housing and Harassment cases.

Ms. Sedillos is currently an Assistant Attorney General with five years of experience representing state health related licensing agencies in the prosecution of violations of state law in the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General. She has seven years of additional experience as both a managing and staff attorney representing a diverse population in civil cases including housing, harassment, family and consumer debt cases in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. Sedillos also developed and taught foreclosures CLEs and delivered workshops for self-represented litigants while practicing in New Mexico. A native of Minnesota, she has her bachelor’s degree from Minnesota State University-Mankato; a Master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin and her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Her professional and personal experiences, reputation for integrity and fairness and excellent communication and presentation skills will serve us and the people we serve well in her appointment as a Referee.”

Housing Law Practice Tip: Retaliatory Eviction

Tenants have numerous legal protections against landlords who retaliate against them for taking actions to protect their rights as tenants. While statutory protections have existed for quite sometime, a recent Supreme Court decision extended those rights with a common law cause of action. This month’s practice tip goes over the specific rights of tenants when retaliation is an issue and the legal foundations for those rights.

You can find it attached to this email or on our website: <https://www.vlnmn.org/volunteer/housing>

Have an idea for a Practice Tip? Let us know and you might be featured in our next issue!

Full Representation Referrals

- Clinic volunteers—we can’t provide further assistance for every referral we get. However, these are some referrals we really do want!
- **RENT ESCROW:** Minneapolis residents with repair or other habitability issues.
- **EVICITION DEFENSE:** Tenants with an eviction hearing scheduled in Hennepin county who have a viable defense.
- **EVICITION EXPUNGEMENT:** Clients raising complicated legal arguments or having barriers to representing themselves.
- Referrals must be 125% or below the FPG. Please check in with the clinic assistant before making referrals.

VLN Hiring Housing Law Attorney

VLN is looking for a part time attorney (0.5 FTE) to join our housing team. This attorney will be primarily responsible for managing the newly launched Anoka County Housing Court Clinic. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our team, we encourage you to apply!

For more information and qualifications, check out our job listing at the Minnesota Non-Profits Job Board.

<https://jobs.minnesotanonprofits.org/job/housing-project-attorney-minneapolis-minnesota-38835>