



January 15, 2020

# JANUARY HOUSING LAW UPDATES

## Volunteer Lawyers Network Housing Newsletter

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### Eviction Representation Training

**Are you interested in taking an eviction representation shift? Or, would you like to step out of the clinic and negotiate on behalf of a client going through an eviction? If so, this CLE is for you!**

This CLE will focus on training attorneys to provide full or limited representation to tenants going through an eviction for non-payment of rent. The training will employ a hypothetical client interview scenario which presents several non-payment eviction defenses and will give participants an opportunity to sharpen their skills identifying and negotiating with opposing counsel surrounding these defenses.

**When:** Thursday, January 30, 8:30am – 11:00am  
**Where:** VLN's Administrative Offices, 600 Nicollet Mall, Suite #390A, Minneapolis, MN 55402  
**CLE:** 2.25 Standard credits applied for  
**Cost:** Free

Continental Breakfast provided  
Register at [www.vlnmn.org/events](http://www.vlnmn.org/events) or by calling 612-752-6647

### Anoka County Housing Court Clinic Launch: Volunteers Needed!

VLN's Housing Team is thrilled to announce the launch of another Housing Court Clinic—this time in Anoka County. This Housing Court Clinic is a joint effort between the 10th Judicial District, VLN, Judicare of Anoka County, CMLS, Mediation and Restorative Services, and Anoka County Emergency Assistance. The clinic kicks off on February 12, 2020, with VLN needing volunteer attorneys every Wednesday from 8:30-10:30 thereafter. Monday shifts will be opening up also later in the year. Prior housing experience is not necessary, but helpful. All training will be provided. Minimum commitment is one, two-hour shift each month for one year.

**If you are interested, please contact Muria at [muria@vlnmn.org](mailto:muria@vlnmn.org)/612-752-6647 OR register to attend our upcoming training.**

#### Training Details:

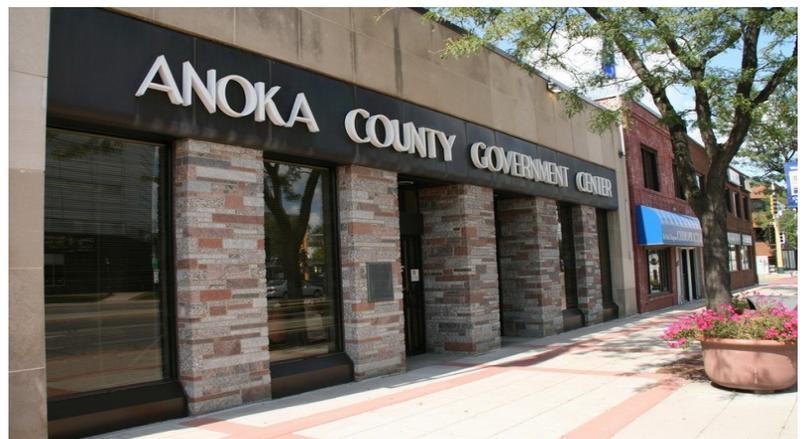
**When:** Tuesday, February 11, 2:00pm-4:15pm

**Where:** Anoka County Government Center, Room 710

**Who:** Attorneys interested in learning more about volunteering at the Anoka County Housing Court Clinic

**CLE:** 2.0 Standard CLE Credits requested

**Registration:** [www.vlnmn.org/events](http://www.vlnmn.org/events)



# HOUSING UPDATES

## VLN Housing Highlights of 2019: By the Numbers

- In 2019, VLN hosted 5 Eviction Expungement clinics in partnership with the Corporate Pro Bono Counsel. At these clinics, volunteer attorneys met with a total of 44 clients and drafted 101 eviction expungement motions. VLN hosted another 2 eviction expungement clinics with 3M in St. Paul, serving 14 clients and drafting 30 eviction expungement motions.
- 2019 was VLN's first year doing the Eviction Representation Project (ERP). In our first year through with ERP, VLN volunteers provided full representation to 63 clients going through an eviction.
- Our Ramsey County Housing Clinic served a total of 346 clients in 2019. This clinic focuses on individuals who have an eviction or rent escrow hearing the day of the clinic. In 2019, there was a total of 2,828 evictions and rent escrow hearings in Ramsey County; so VLN served 12% of these people.
- Our Hennepin County Housing Court Clinic served a total of 1,752 clients, 37% of whom received brief services in addition to advice.
- In 2019, VLN placed 24 rent escrow cases for full representation.

## A big THANK YOU and Happy New Year to all of our fantastic volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

You don't have to take our word for it. Your clients say it best:

*"Thank you is an understatement. Me and my children are forever grateful for [my VLN lawyer's] help."*

*"I'm so grateful for what [my VLN lawyer] did for me. I couldn't thank him enough."*

*"I can't thank you enough for all your help and support. Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed it means a lot to little old me."*

## Save the Date!

### VLN's Annual Housing Law Seminar

Thursday March 26, 2020, 8:30am-2:30pm

Hosted by Faegre Baker Daniels

More information and registration coming soon!

## Important Odds & Ends

### Minneapolis Ordinance: Tenant Relocation Assistance

Effective June 1, 2020, Minneapolis City Council has amended the ordinance on Tenant Relocation Assistance (specifically, chapter 244 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances was amended by adding a new [Section 244.1950](#)). This change will require landlords whose licenses are revoked, cancelled or buildings are condemned to pay tenants three months rent as relocation assistance.

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### U.S. House Rep. DeLauro (D-CT) introduces bill for 'right to counsel'

Representative DeLauro [introduced a bill](#) in December 2019 seeking to authorize a right to counsel in civil actions related to eviction. The bill would direct federal funds towards cities/states to provide eviction representation, and gives priority to those jurisdictions establishing or pursuing a right to counsel. This is the first of several such bills that are coming. Stay tuned!

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### Hennepin County Government Center Ramp Closure

As of December 2019, the Government Center Parking Ramp is closed to members of the public. This closure is due to a renovation project which is expected to be completed in April 2020. Information for alternative parking options, including parking meters and city-owned parking ramps, can be found on the [City of Minneapolis website](#).