



Tip of the Month April 2021

Learn Bankruptcy Law and Practice by Volunteering with VLN

Submitted by: Chris Kramer, VLN Bankruptcy Resource
Attorney/Program Manager

Have you been considering adding bankruptcy work to your private practice? Volunteer Lawyers Network would love to help you by training you to do pro bono Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases through VLN. We would enjoy getting you the experience you need to feel confident in adding bankruptcy law to your areas of practice. Even better, pro bono bankruptcy work is one of the most fulfilling things you can do as a volunteer, for you get the chance to radically transform someone's life by helping them achieve the "fresh start" that only bankruptcy can provide a person overwhelmed with debt.

How can VLN help?

First, we can help you get admitted to the Federal Court for the District of Minnesota. If you are not already admitted, we can explain the process to you and send you the necessary forms, help you get the two needed Certificates (letters of recommendation), and even present you to the Court at your admission ceremony. No problem!

Second, if you are new or inexperienced in bankruptcy law and practice, we have resources to help you succeed. Foremost, we will arrange for an experienced mentor to assist you with your early cases, giving you a great resource for years to come as you grow in your knowledge and experience. Next, we have step-by-step guides to help you with getting started, and we have training resources you can watch and read to learn the basics of bankruptcy law and practice.

Speaking of training, VLN and Legal Services State Support's annual CLE, "Chapter 7 Bankruptcies for Low-Income Clients," is coming up on May 11th and 18th, in two noon webinars (2.5 standard credits applied for). [Here is a link to register \(free for VLN volunteers\).](#)

Third, we have a great cloud-based software you can use for free – Jubilee by Legal Pro. The software really helps make the process much easier. You will have to learn to ropes, and that is where Legal Pro really shines. Their customer service team is truly excellent and will work with you to get over your initial fears of a new software product to learn. Most things about the software are self-explanatory, but don't resist asking for help on anything

that confuses you or that you simply want to go over with someone who will patiently teach you their software.

Fourth, we also have you covered for malpractice insurance for all your pro bono cases through VLN. Having said this, bankruptcy law allows for mistakes as long as you fix them! Thus, one of the things you will certainly learn is how to amend a bankruptcy case filing. Your mentor will keep working with you on the case until it is something you can be proud of.

Fifth, you get up to six CLE credits per reporting cycle for doing volunteer work. [Our February 2021 Tip of the Month covered how to claim your CLE credits for volunteering with VLN.](#)

Finally, and most importantly, there is a need. VLN always needs more bankruptcy volunteers to take Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. That need will likely grow as society transitions back to life without COVID-19 protections from evictions and some collection activities. Many may be forced to file bankruptcy, so VLN wants to be ready to help.

Therefore, I ask you to consider becoming a VLN bankruptcy volunteer. Learn the ropes while things are still relatively quiet in the practice of consumer bankruptcies, then be ready to help VLN meet the potential great need for bankruptcy attorneys as things reopen and Minnesotans in need come to VLN asking for our help getting a "fresh start" through a pro bono Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

[Click here to register as a volunteer!](#)

Program contact information:

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Bankruptcy Case Coordinator

612-752-6673

Call to get cases or to ask general questions about working with clients, or VLN itself.

Chris Kramer

Judge Nancy C. Dreher Bankruptcy Attorney (Bankruptcy Resource Attorney/Program Manager)

612-752-6645

Call with bankruptcy law, software or forms questions.

Please call if you run into any problems in getting your registration submitted, or if you have not heard from us in two weeks after you have submitted your registration.

Thank you!