

# VLP NEWSLETTER

A new look, but the same  
great information

# LEGAL ACTION OF WISCONSIN

## Good Stories from EDP

### Nick Castronovo

We want to give a huge shoutout to EDP volunteer, Nick Castronovo and his two summer law clerks, Derik Rush and Alex Prpa, for their incredible 35 hours helping an EDP client with an eviction case. This case came to Nick and his team with discovery requests from the opposing counsel and almost no defenses or supporting evidence for our client. Nick, however, successfully negotiated a full dismissal of the case and was able to get the client's eviction record sealed from CCAP. Thank you, Nick, for your incredible advocacy and devotion to the EDP!

### Katrina Hull

The Eviction Defense Project Teams would like to thank Katrina Hull for her fantastic work in spearheading the EDP's new "Eviction Record Sealing Clinic" efforts. In our just two clinic sessions, Katrina has secured eviction record seals from CCAP for seven clients. This means that these seven clients and their families will be able to maintain housing stability free from the prejudice that accompanies an eviction record.

## Interested in Volunteering

Interested in volunteering at our clinics or accepting pro bono referrals? Please complete this [form](#).



## WELCOME ELIZABETH "LISA" EDDY

Legal Action has launched the Consumer Debt Defense Project in Milwaukee. The project seeks to represent consumers in Small Claims Court who are defending collection cases filed by third party debt buyers who are mass filers. Lisa has joined the VLP team as a staff attorney. She will be overseeing the growth and development of CDD.

Prior to joining Legal Action, Lisa worked in private practice, focusing on bankruptcy, restructuring and general civil litigation, and served as a law clerk to then-U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Brett H. Ludwig. She graduated from Marquette Law School in 2015.

## 2 Pardons Granted

Two clients were granted pardons for drug-related convictions without hearings, which makes the process much less stressful for the clients. It illustrates that high level of service they received from pro bono attorneys Arthur Phillips and Jeff Patzke. Like many of our clients facing barriers to employment, these clients have overcome difficult childhoods, substance abuse issues, and more. They have bright futures ahead of them. Thank you Jeff and Arthur!

## Client Shoutout to Paula Rieghns

Thank you for the legal help I received from your organization, Legal Action of Wisconsin gave me an amazing volunteer lawyer. She guided me like a mother teaching her child how to walk, she was very patient with me, she was a great support every step of the way.

## STATE BAR PRO BONO PORTAL

Looking for a way to find and connect with pro bono opportunities?

Click [here](#) to see what's out what's there!

# Upcoming Trainings

**An Introduction to Domestic Abuse Injunctions**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**

**12:00 pm - 2:00 pm (applying for 2.0 CLE credits)**

**In-Person at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C.**

**Registration link: [Here](#)**

**Eviction Defense Project 101**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2023**

**12:00 pm - 2:00 pm (requesting 2.0 CLE Credit)**

**In Person at Quarles & Brady LLP (Milwaukee Office)**

**Registration available in September**

**Trauma- Informed Lawyering**

**Tuesday, October 10, 2023**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm (requesting 2.0 CLE/EPR Credit)**

**Via Zoom**

**Registration link: [Here](#)**

# Farewell from Judge Raphael Ramos

When the Eviction Defense Project launched in 2017, none of us had any idea what we were really getting into. It was, in many ways, a leap into the unknown for Legal Action and for me. The firm hadn't tried to provide same-day, on-site, services in that scale before and, prior to joining Legal Action, my experience in housing law was limited to a handful of Volunteer Lawyer Project security deposit cases. We had high hopes, but if I said I knew how the story would end, I would have been lying.

When I say that the EDP was a success beyond my wildest expectations, I mean it sincerely. I could not believe how many people came out in support of our work. Looking back, I should not have been surprised at all. Legal Action's VLP and the EDP are built on the bedrock that are all of you volunteers. What I didn't understand when I first joined the firm was that the foundation of pro bono wasn't just having people to do the work, but that those people be earnestly committed to helping those in need.

What I saw with the EDP was breathtaking levels of dedication. I saw a volunteer represent a client the day after a death in the volunteer's family because they thought their family-member would be proud of their work. I saw a volunteer want to pay the rent owed by a family to keep them in their home (they did not, for many reasons, but the desire was genuine). I saw volunteers take on the first trial of their careers and walk away victorious. I saw volunteers take shifts on short notice without hesitation and take cases with no "merit" but still obtain amazing results. I saw an entire group of volunteers and staff stand up to a system and force it to accept that access to justice was something desperately needed in eviction court. I saw amazing people do amazing things in service to our clients every single day I went to work.

I could not have imagined a better collection of individuals to do the work we set out to do. Your commitment was, and continues to be, inspiring. Likewise, the internal support from the EDP team at LAW was a perpetual source of strength and succor that made every day at work a joy.

Having moved on from Legal Action to the Circuit Court, I can promise you that I will always remember the lessons that you (volunteers and LAW staff alike) have taught me. The passion for equal justice that all of you share will continue to guide my work, and I am eager to see how all of you work together to serve Legal Action's clients and further the mission of the EDP. Thank you again for letting me play a small part in what is, I am sure, a story that is just getting started.

Sincerely,  
Raphael Ramos