

{ ACT 2 | Review }



The Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

Volunteer Lawyers Program
[vlp]

August - September 2016

Upcoming ACT 2 Events

Please RSVP at www.lasclev.org/registration

Complimentary CLE: "What's Your Next Step? ACT 2 Volunteering and the Emeritus Rule"

Thursday, September 29th, 12:00pm-1:00pm • CMBA

ACT 2 Brief Advice Clinic

Thursday, October 27th, 2:30pm-4:30pm • Cleveland Public Library, Downtown

Volunteer Opportunities: How Can You Help?

Please email probono@lasclev.org for logistics, including training information

■ Upcoming Clinics (Limited time commitment)

General Brief Advice Clinics:

- **Saturday, September 10th**, 9:30-11:30am • Glenville Branch of CPL
- **Wednesday, September 14th**, 2:00-4:00pm • Ashtabula Cty Catholic Charities
- **Thursday, September 15th**, 2:00-4:00pm • Oberlin Community Services
- **Saturday, October 15th**, 9:30-11:30am • Fulton Branch of CPL

Assisted Pro Se Clinics:

- Expungement Clinic: **Thursday, September 1st**, 4:30-6:30pm • Legal Aid Office
- Divorce Clinic: **Friday, September 16th**, 10:00-11:30am • CMBA

■ In-House Volunteering

These opportunities involve working directly with Legal Aid staff on Volunteer Lawyers Program projects or in substantive practice groups. The time commitment for these roles varies, but most require several days a month. Email probono@lasclev.org for details.

■ Extended Service to Individual Clients

Legal Aid is always looking for volunteers to help clients beyond brief advice. These matters are on a variety of civil legal issues with varying time commitments.

ACT 2 Stories: Deborah Coleman



When Deborah Coleman left her position at Hahn Loeser & Parks in 2013, her next step was to open her own firm focusing on arbitration,

mediation, and professional ethics. She also took this opportunity to dramatically increase her pro bono involvement. For over fifteen years, she had been a volunteer with Legal Aid, taking one case at a time, every once in a while. Since re-inventing her practice three years ago, Deborah has volunteered over 200 hours of her time – handling several cases at a time – to ensure shelter, safety, and economic security for the most vulnerable members of our communities.

"With just a few exceptions," Deborah says, "the cases I've taken present familiar legal issues—breach of contract claims, dealing with an insurer, real estate disputes. My clients are typically the working poor, who lack the resources to unpack or readily resolve their problems."

"I enjoy helping individuals understand their options, implement a strategy and, if possible, improve their situation," she continued. In a recent matter, Deborah was able to assist clients in renegotiating their land contract, getting the land contract forfeiture case against them dismissed, and getting the property taxes reduced to reflect market realities. "My clients had poured four years of sweat equity into making the house they bought livable, and now have the prospect of being able to keep it affordably."