

UConn Law Student from Ukraine Leading by Example

By DANIEL J. HORGAN

One of the many advantages of having an Access to Justice Initiatives Director is the ability to expand our pro bono reach to law students. That is what happened on April 1st when Jenn Shukla organized a CT Free Legal Answers clinic at UConn School of Law. Hosted by Dean Nelson, several CBA leaders went to the campus to mentor eager law students. The idea was to educate the students on how important pro bono services are and to explain how the CT Free Legal Answers program works. We broke the students into small groups and each lawyer helped the students answer open questions from Connecticut residents by assisting them in research and drafting responses to “real world” client questions. As I have said in earlier editions of this column, the FLA program is

“The three most important ways to lead people are: by example, by example, and by example.”

– Albert Schweitzer

the easiest way for our CBA members to participate in our pro bono programs simply by taking 30 minutes per week and logging in.¹

My group had three 1L students. They were excited to use research and critical analysis skills to help answer four open questions involving landlord/tenant, social security disability, wage complaint, and a parental termination matter. Each

of the three students in my group told me how good it felt to actually use skills they were learning to help people who could not afford lawyers. One of the students, Alona Voronova, a full-time student and mother of two children, emigrated from Ukraine. Alona has many relatives living in Ukraine. We discussed the horrors occurring in her home land and she told me that her family and friends were safe for now but couldn’t hide her concern. I could not stop thinking of how hard it must be on Alona to concentrate on her studies and raise her children while under that amount of worry; yet, here she was, volunteering to help those in need in Connecticut. Truly inspirational and an example to our members that no matter what may be occurring in our work/personal lives, we can spare some small amount of time to participate in one of our pro bono programs. I encourage you to select one of our programs:

CT FREE LEGAL ANSWERS is an online civil legal service for people who cannot afford to pay for an attorney. Attorneys will answer questions through an online portal.

VIRTUAL FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINICS allow Connecticut residents with legal questions to sign up in advance for a



Daniel J. Horgan with his group of UConn law student volunteers at the CT Free Legal Answers clinic.

Lawyers in Libraries Program

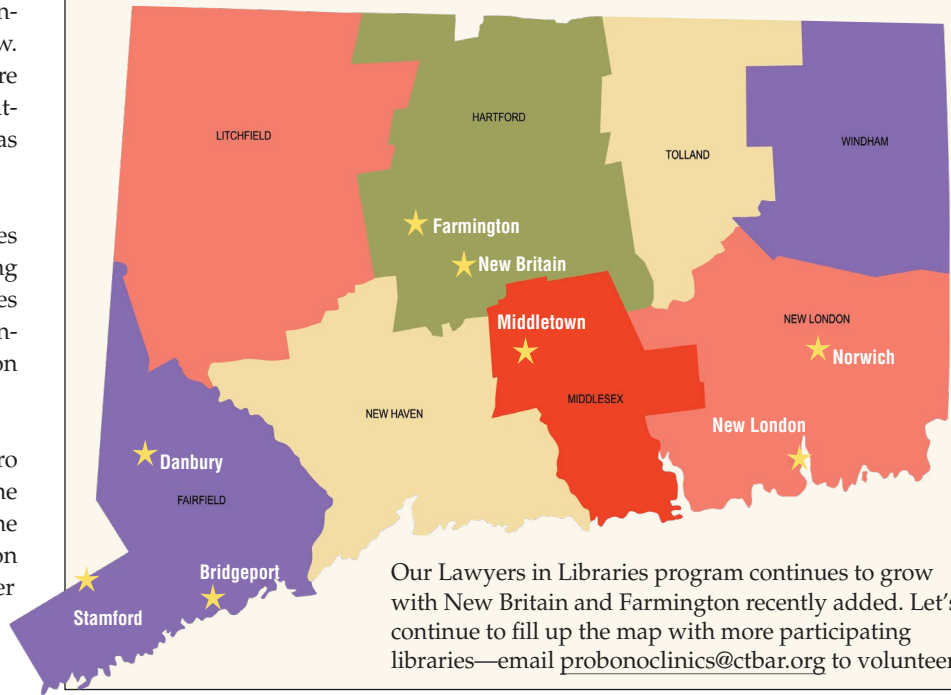
free 30-minute appointment with a volunteer attorney in a particular area of law. Law student and paralegal volunteers are needed to conduct intake interviews. Attorneys can volunteer for as many or as few time slots as they want.

CBA PRO BONO CONNECT provides volunteers with complimentary training and educational seminars and matches them with a case referred by one of Connecticut's legal service providers based on your expressed pro bono interests.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES provides pro bono legal services to members of the public in libraries throughout state in the areas of landlord/tenant, immigration law, family law, employment, consumer rights, and personal injury.

Visit ctbar.org/ProBono to learn more about these programs and how to register to volunteer.

This Free Legal Answers clinic was very successful, as 15 law students signed up to continue to help provide research and draft answers for our members who



might need or want support in answering questions. Quinnipiac, Yale, and WNEU law schools will also be collaborating in future pro bono exercises with the CBA. We have a lot of great pro bono programs happening—join us! ■

NOTES

1. Congratulations to CBA member Ron Japha who has answered 60 questions since October 1! Also, members Vivian Moreno-Zelinka and Meghan Maynard have been incredible consistently answering questions. Thank you.

Image credit: Kosmozoo/DigitalVision Vectors



CBA Free Legal Advice Clinic: Volunteers Needed

Tuesday, July 26, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



If you have 30 minutes free, you can volunteer. Volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions in their area of practice during a 30-minute remote session with a client.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Fraudulent Business/Debt Collection
- Employee Rights/Unemployment
- Immigration Law
- Landlord/Tenant
- Family Law
- Tax Law
- Bankruptcy
- Pardons
- Wills and Estates
- Torts

Volunteer opportunities are available for paralegals and law students as well. Visit ctbar.org/FreeLegalAdviceClinics to learn more and register.

