
Vermont Access to Justice Campaign 2010 Report

Lawyers. Vermont. Supporting the Vermont Poverty Law Fellowship.

The Vermont Access to Justice Campaign is supported by the Vermont Access to Justice Coalition:

•Vermont Supreme Court•Vermont Bar Association•Vermont Bar Foundation•Vermont Law School•Vermont Legal Aid, Inc. •Legal Aid Law Line of Vermont•South Royalton Legal Clinic

Dear Colleagues,

We are proud to report that YOU have made Campaign 2010 a success, donating more than \$112,000 to provide access to justice in Vermont. Congratulations!

This campaign puts lawyers to work for those most in need in Vermont, allowing bright young lawyers to focus entirely on a major issue of the time for two full years, first foreclosure and now housing safety.

We all need to remember that this campaign is one of three efforts that the Access to Justice Coalition has launched to bring access to justice in Vermont, the other two being bringing Vermont banks together to increase IOLTA interest income that supports other legal services projects in Vermont and the statewide project to increase pro bono services. All three efforts are critical. The Coalition is a remarkable collaboration of the Supreme Court, the Bar Association, the Bar Foundation, Vermont Law School, Legal Aid and Law Line. How cool is that.

We thank Spencer Knapp and the late Joan Wing, the original chairs of this campaign. They were the critical icebreakers, getting this mission started from scratch. Heck of a job.

We thank Vermont Attorneys Title for jumpstarting the final phase of the campaign with great generosity and creativity in offering both a fixed grant and a matching challenge grant. Bless you.

We thank Carol Ode for her endless energy, creativity, persistence and dedication. Awesome.

We thank the Young Lawyers Division, staff at the VBA and VBF, media and administrative helpers at Downs Rachlin Martin, and Justices Reiber and Johnson for all their support.

And we thank all who participated in this year's campaign. Fundraising can be hard and fundraising can be fun. You all made it fun.

Best regards to all,

Thomas Z. Carlson and S. Stacy Chapman, III

Grace Pazdan

Vermont's First Poverty Law Fellow 2008-2010

SERVING VERMONT: THE FORECLOSURE CRISIS

- Grace served more than 100 clients, and almost singlehandedly leveled the playing field for homeowners in Vermont at a critical time, one of the leading lawyers nationally in ensuring due process in a crisis.
- Grace helped educate both lawyers and judges in truly equitable resolution of foreclosure cases.
- Grace championed the passage of legislation that serves both homeowners and lenders by requiring mediation in most foreclosure cases.
- Grace helped Vermont homeowners stay in their homes, strengthening our communities and allowing mortgage lenders to preserve the value of their collateral.
- Grace brought a level of professionalism and “grace” to the bar that set an example for years to come.
- Please view an interview with Grace Pazdan at <http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/civic-law-issues>.

Jessica Radbord

Vermont's Second Poverty Law Fellow 2010-2012

SERVING VERMONT: SAFE HOUSING

- Since August, Jessica has served 52 clients, resolving numerous cases by working with state and local officials to get landlords to address habitability issues in tenants' apartments, as well as appearing in court.
- Jessica has seen first-hand collapsed ceilings and walls, extensive plumbing problems, lack of potable water, lack of heat, bedbugs, lack of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, exposed wiring, extensive mold, and deteriorated lead-based paint.
- Jessica has increased safer housing by working with Town Health Officers to ensure that rental units that are not in compliance with rental housing safety codes are not offered for rent until landlords address outstanding violations.
- Jessica has developed a special interest in violations of the Vermont Lead Poisoning Law, focusing on protecting Vermont's children from the neurological hazards presented by exposure to lead-based paint.

Vermont Access to Justice Campaign 2010

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