

Summer Associate's Day

Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP) is dedicated to providing low-income individuals equal access to the legal system in civil matters by referring them to volunteer lawyers, paralegals, and others who provide legal services free of charge. We actively recruit volunteer attorneys and paralegals through various training events during the year.

One of our largest events is our **annual Summer Associate's Day**. This half-day training session is held in the early summer for law students clerking at local private firms. The private firms have been very committed to this event, and thus VIP has trained as many as 180 summer associates. In addition to the substantive training of the summer associate's choice, event features a **networking session with local judges** and talks by the Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association and other prominent members of the private and public interest bar who speak of the importance of pro bono work. After the training session, summer associates sign up for a **community education clinic related to the training they received**. These clinics are held at a later date in the community, and summer associates **conduct intake interviews** with those who need pro bono legal services.

We **collaborate with various legal services providers** in the city to offer needed legal services training. For example, we have or will partner this year with:

- ***Congreso de Latinos Unidos***, a social services agency for the Latino community, on immigration and homeownership presentations;
- the ***Legal Clinic for the Disabled***, a pro bono legal services agency for the disabled, on a discussion regarding wills, living wills, and powers of attorney;
- ***SeniorLAW Center***, a legal services provider for the poor elderly, with trainings on custody and related issues for kinship caregivers;
- ***Philadelphia LawWorks***, VIP's community economic development project, with presentations on how to become a tax-exempt non-profit corporation; and the
- ***Homeless Advocacy Project***, a legal services provider for homeless Philadelphians, on trainings regarding issues affecting the homeless population.

Summer Associate's Day aims to involve young associates in pro bono work early -- before they have even taken the Bar Exam. We hope to show them the **importance of pro bono work in their future careers** and encourage them to habitually participate in serving poor communities. We make this participation easier by **connecting young associates with legal services organizations**, and by inviting a wide range of legal services providers to provide training for every participant. Part of our half-day training focuses on the **interaction between attorneys and clients** and teaches associates how to interview clients. Our training de-mystifies the pro bono attorney-client relationship.

Our Summer Associate's Day is a great way for **legal services organizations to collaborate and serve a larger number of needy clients** while exposing young associates to pro bono work and hopefully **inspire a new generation of attorneys to public service**.