

cgla PRO BONO PULSE



Alexandra Antonacci, Senior Attorney, along with four other CGLA staff attorneys trained 1L Law Students at Northwestern.

As the summer comes to a close, we wanted to take a moment to recognize the incredible pro bono work that has been done. This season, we're proud to spotlight the dedication of our volunteers, the meaningful experiences of our summer law interns, and the critical work being done across our organization to serve those in need.

INTERNING FOR IMPACT

Hear from one of our summer interns and learn about their incredible work this summer!

PRO BONO STARS

Jenny Hager

Alison Schwartz

Learn more about Jenny, Alison, and their work with CGLA!

GET INVOLVED

Visit our website at www.cgla.net or contact Alex Antonacci.

INTERNING FOR IMPACT: MY SUMMER AT CGLA

BY: HALEY PALUMBO

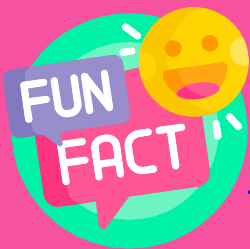
This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to intern with Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA), where I supported attorneys working at the intersection of criminal records, housing, and systemic inequity. From the very beginning, I was inspired by the way CGLA combines direct client advocacy with a broader mission to challenge systemic inequities in the criminal legal system.

As someone who pursued law to make a positive difference in the world, this internship helped me see, on both a personal and systemic level, the real, tangible impact attorneys can have. Whether assisting with expungement petitions, analyzing RAP sheets, or preparing client materials, I witnessed how legal work can restore dignity, expand opportunity, and open doors that had been closed for far too long.

My time at CGLA deepened my belief in the law as a tool for justice and affirmed my commitment to public interest work. I'm grateful for the mentorship I received and proud to have contributed to an organization so rooted in compassion, equity, and second chances.



Haley is a rising 2L at Notre Dame's College of Law. She was one of 4 interns on the Criminal Record Relief Team, and, notably, worked the most Help Desk Shifts this summer!



This summer, CGLA welcomed 11 college and law students for our internship program. The Criminal Records Relief Team were joined by 4 superstar law students, who did incredible work. Amongst other things, they:

- Researched and Prepared over **200** petitions to seal/expunge
- Represented clients in **court** at their objection hearings
- Worked **dozens** of shifts at the Daley Center Help Desk

PRO BONO STARS

JENNY HAGER

Daley Center HD Volunteer



I'VE BEEN VOLUNTEERING WITH CGLA SINCE 2015, WITH A SHORT BREAK DURING COVID.

I'M MOTIVATED TO GIVE BACK TO CHICAGO AND ILLINOIS USING MY LEGAL SKILLS, AND I APPRECIATE HOW WELL-ORGANIZED AND FLEXIBLE THE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE. MOST OF ALL, I BELIEVE IN CGLA'S MISSION.

MY FAVORITE PART OF THE WORK IS KNOWING THAT AFTER WE HELP SOMEONE CLEAR A CRIMINAL RECORD, THEIR PATH FORWARD BECOMES A LITTLE BRIGHTER.

FUN FACT: MY BROTHER LIVES IN SRI LANKA! I'VE VISITED ONCE AND DEFINITELY PLAN TO GO BACK.

ALISON SCHWARTZ

Virtual HD Volunteer



I STARTED VOLUNTEERING AT THE HELP DESK BEFORE COVID IT'S BEEN GREAT TO BE PART OF CGLA AND HELP CLIENTS TAKE REAL STEPS TOWARD CLEARING THEIR ARREST RECORDS AND BUILDING BETTER FUTURES.

I VOLUNTEER BECAUSE I'VE SEEN HOW EVEN NON-CONVICTION RECORDS CAN SERIOUSLY LIMIT SOMEONE'S OPPORTUNITIES—WHETHER IT'S GETTING A JOB, STABLE HOUSING, OR ACCESS TO EDUCATION. I BELIEVE IN SECOND CHANCES, AND HELPING SOMEONE IS A SMALL BUT POWERFUL WAY TO SUPPORT THAT. PLUS, THE TIME COMMITMENT IS MANAGEABLE AND MEANINGFUL.!

FUN FACT: I HAVE A TWIN SISTER! FOR 45 YEARS, WE THOUGHT WE WERE FRATERNAL—UNTIL A 23ANDME TEST REVEALED WE'RE ACTUALLY IDENTICAL. WE WERE SHOCKED... BUT APPARENTLY NO ONE ELSE WAS!

Upcoming Events

CGLA Fall Cocktail Reception

Root Down To Rise Up

TASTE 222 | SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

Join us in celebrating CGLA's mission, community and accomplishments!

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



**Mariyana T. Spyropoulos**
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County



SECOND CHANCE SUMMIT

Oct. 11, 2025 | 8:30AM-4PM | Proviso Math and Science Academy
8601 Roosevelt Rd, Forest Park, IL 60130

TRAINING SESSIONS FOR ATTORNEYS

Volunteer attorneys are needed for the Second Chance Summit, hosted by the Clerk of the Circuit Court Mariyana Spyropoulos. Training will be provided by Cabrini Green Legal Aid and participating in one session is required to assist.

69 W. Washington, 22nd Floor
September 17, 5:00 - 6:30PM (in person)
September 24, 12:00 - 1:30PM (virtual)
October 1, 5:00 - 6:30PM (in person)
October 8, 12:00 - 1:30PM (virtual)

The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook county is an accredited MCLE Provider. Attorneys will earn 1 General MCLE credit.

**SCAN TO RSVP**
If you cannot attend on your scheduled date, you may attend another session.

Pro Bono Opportunities

In-Person HD

Volunteer at the Help Desk at The Daley Center to assist individuals seeking criminal records relief in person. Volunteers support CGLA attorneys and paralegals by answering questions, facilitating intake, and providing brief consultations on expungement and sealing, with full guidance on site.

Virtual HD

Volunteer with the Virtual Criminal Records Relief Help Desk to assist individuals seeking to clear their criminal records through expungement and sealing. Volunteers help research records, determine eligibility, and prepare paperwork, all while offering consultations *remotely* and at their *convenience*.

Court Hearings

Gain hands-on experience in virtual court by volunteering to represent petitioners at objection hearings. Volunteers work with clients to develop mitigation, offering a valuable experience while advocating for those seeking criminal records relief.

Research

Volunteers have the opportunity to research a variety of legal issues related to criminal records relief, providing valuable support to the team. This role offers hands-on experience in legal research while contributing to important work in helping individuals clear their records.



ALEX ANTONACCI

Phone: 312.374.6891

Email: alexantonacci@cglanet.net



WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS

Every Tuesday 12 - 1 PM

Every Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Please email Alex for more information or for the Zoom link!