



2017 Community Leader Organization Award



Volunteer Lawyers Project

The Volunteer Lawyers Project, or VLP, is a non-profit agency providing free civil legal services to low-income households and small non-for-profit groups. The result of a partnership between Neighborhood Legal Services and the Erie County Bar Association, this agency has worked for over 30 years to help WNY'ers in need of legal services, regardless of their race, religion, or cultural background.

VLP is committed to providing their clients with the highest quality of service, and they often fight hard and complicated battles to protect their rights. They rely on a dedicated, but small staff, as well as a cadre of volunteers to provide legal counsel. Since opening its doors, over 2,500 attorneys have represented over 150,000 clients on a pro bono basis, and the agency has provided needed referrals to even more WNY'ers.

VLP has a tremendous cost effective benefit for WNY. On average, the agency saves tax payers roughly \$3,000,000 per year through homeless prevention and other assistance. VLP helps clients fight predatory foreclosure or eviction practices, collect back child support, and obtain unemployment insurance benefits to which they are entitled.

For their work to provide much needed representation and support to so many, the NFJC proudly presents the Volunteer Lawyers Project with the 2017 Community Leader Organization Award. Accepting this award is Attorney Gayle Towne Murphy, Pro bono Manager.



"...a just community begins with me!"

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