

## VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION: ATTORNEY EMERITUS

**Name of Organization:** Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (BBA VLP)

**Brief Description of Organization:** The mission of the BBA VLP is to ensure that the legal system is accessible to those who, because of special needs or the overwhelming burdens of poverty, would not otherwise have their rights protected or their voices heard. Since 1990, dedicated volunteers from the private bar have provided critical pro bono assistance through the VLP to thousands of individuals and families from Brooklyn's poorest neighborhoods. The goal of each VLP volunteer is to use the legal system to help people regain dignity and control over their lives. The VLP's primary referral areas are family law, elder law, consumer law, Chapter 7 bankruptcy, wills, guardianship, and a newly-initiated Foreclosure Intervention Program in partnership with South Brooklyn Legal Services. In addition to serving those in need through direct representation, the VLP has established several innovative education and outreach programs for seniors and self-represented litigants.

**Population Served:** Low-income persons from Brooklyn, families, and seniors.

**Website:** <http://www.brooklynvlp.org/>

**Phone:** 718-624-3895

**Address:** 44 Court Street, Suite 1206  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR CONTACT

**Name:** Sidney Cherubin, Esq.

**Title:** Director of Legal Services

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Article 17A Guardianship:** In January 2009, the VLP initiated a multifaceted legal services project assisting clients with obtaining guardianship of a developmentally disabled person. In New York State, parents or guardians of persons who are developmentally delayed are considered the natural guardians of their children until their 18th birthday. After a person reaches 18 years of age, he or she is presumed to be a legally competent adult and able to manage his or her own affairs. If an individual is not able to manage on their own, a parent or legal guardian must obtain legal guardianship under Article 17A of the S.C.P.A. The VLP will assist residents of Brooklyn either with pro se assistance or direct representation in Kings County Surrogate's Court. Petitioners will meet with attorneys to complete all the necessary forms to obtain guardianship pro se. If it appears that additional assistance is required for follow through, an attorney may choose to appear in court with the litigant. Volunteer attorneys will have the support and assistance of Sidney Cherubin, the VLP Supervising Attorney, throughout the process. At this time, there are no other organizations in Brooklyn providing assistance with Article 17A petitions.

**Can Volunteers Work Off Site?** Yes

**Type of Work:** Full Representation; Limited Representation; Pro Se Assistance.

**Location, Days and Hours of Volunteer Opportunity:**  
Downtown Brooklyn office located near the state and federal courts.

**Area(s) of Substantive Law:** Article 17A Guardianship.

**Supervision:** Staff Supervising Attorneys and experienced practitioners in each of the referral areas serve as mentors to all volunteer VLP attorneys.

**Training:** The VLP conducts training programs for attorneys in its primary areas of referral. Each program is accompanied by a training manual with relevant case law, statutes, and forms.

## REQUIREMENTS OF VOLUNTEER

**Time Commitment:** From as little as two hours a month to full-scale representation with concomitant time commitment.

**Previous Experience in Substantive Law Required:** No.

**Specific/Previous Training Required:** No.

**Updated: 01.28.2016**