

NOVEMBER 2018

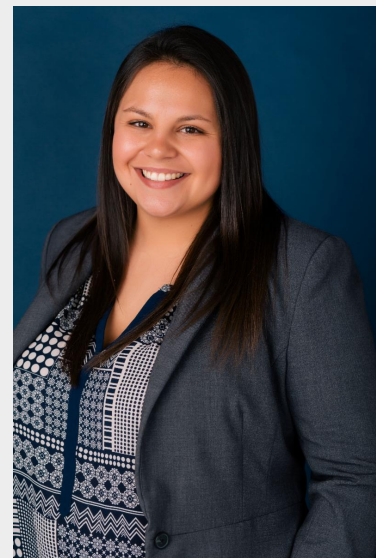
Look for our newsletter the first Monday of every month!

RILS selected to host the 2018-2019 Veterans Legal Corps by Equal Justice Works Americorps



The Veterans Legal Corps (VLC) is a collaborative effort of Rhode Island Legal Services and the legal advocates of Operation Stand Down RI to provide veterans with legal assistance. This project aims to assist veterans with the following critical legal areas: representation in divorce, custody, child support and visitation matters; protective orders; bankruptcy and reduction of consumer debt; representation in securing eligible VA and disability benefits; criminal record expungement and sealing; and representation in housing matters including evictions from private, subsidized, and public housing.

RILS welcomes two Equal Justice Works Americorps Fellows involved with the Veterans Legal Corps project, Kaylin Pelletier and Suzannah Skolnik. Kaylin M. Pelletier is a native Rhode Islander, with a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Johnson and Wales University. She received her law degree at Roger Williams University School of Law and was a member of the Honors Program and Assistant Editor of the Roger Williams Law Review. Kaylin was an associate attorney with Marasco & Nesselbush practicing disability law. She joined the Equal Justice Works Americorps Fellowship program because she has a desire to serve veterans. After being medically disqualified from joining the military, Kaylin realized she could serve her country in a different way—by helping those actively serving and veterans.



Kaylin Pelletier,
VLC Americorps Fellow

Kaylin comes from a long line of military history in her family, including her grandfather, Walter Biros, who is a veteran and a prominent member of the American Legion. Her great-grandfather was also a veteran and her significant other is a member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard. Like her personal life, Kaylin's professional life as a VLC Americorps Fellow is now surrounded by active members and veterans. And she would not have it any other way.

A native New Yorker, Suzannah holds a B.A. from Cornell University and J.D. from Cardozo School of Law in New York City. During law school, she served as a summer intern to the Honorable Julio M. Fuentes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and as a teaching assistant in Cardozo's Legal Writing department. After graduation, she worked at the New York Legal Assistance Group, helping recent immigrants apply for U-visas and asylum. She then spent several years as a Policy Associate for the Rhode Island chapter of the National Organization for Women.



Suzannah Skolnik,
VLC Americorps Fellow

In this role, she advocated for marriage equality (pre-Obergefell), raising the minimum wage, and improving conditions in homeless shelters. As a 2018-19 VLC Americorps Fellow, Suzannah feels so lucky to have the opportunity to serve Rhode Island vets with the aid of the amazing RILS staff that she pinches herself every day.

The VLC fellows are working on efforts including outreach and collaboration, intake, advice and counsel, and case assignment with the Rhode Island veteran community. We are eager to have them on board and enthusiastic about our collaboration with Operation Stand Down RI and Americorps.

Click on the links to find more information about [Operation Stand Down RI](#) and the [Equal Justice Works Americorps Veterans Legal Corps](#).

Announcing our LGBTQ+ Protection Project



RILS has expanded its outreach efforts to focus on the LGBTQ+ community. With our **new** VOCA funded LGBTQ+ Protection Project, RILS will represent Rhode Islanders in this marginalized group seeking long-term protection from domestic violence and abuse.

*Please support RILS and help the
Rhode Island community!*

Click the button below to donate:

[Donate](#)

RILS Hosts Project Directors Meeting

RILS hosted the October meeting for the New England Project Directors Association (NEPDA). The topic of this meeting focused on sexual harassment in the workplace and other challenging managerial issues. Together, the NEPDA participants discussed how to enforce anti-harassment policies and promote a safe workplace for employees.



This event was sponsored by Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.

Safe Family VOCA Grant Extended



Safe Family Project Receives Funding for Two Additional Years

RILS' Safe Family Project has assisted Rhode Islanders at risk for abuse, dealing with issues of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant has re-approved funding for our efforts to serve Rhode Island low-income families. With this funding, we can continue our efforts to provide for and promote the safety of families through advice, referral, and representation of victims. Our attorneys work towards long-term protection for victims involving custody, visitation, and divorce matters.

[Visit our testimonials page!](#)

Don't Forget to Vote!

RI General Election is Tomorrow, November 6th.

[Find more information here](https://vote.sos.ri.gov/)

Be A Voter

vote.ri.gov

Vote by November 6

Image Source: <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/>

About the Editor

Annie Dwyer

Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Annie is excited to be part of the RILS community and promote RILS' mission through communications and fundraising efforts. Annie has several years of experience working with community centered, non-profit organizations. She has facilitated community outreach, social media, event planning, and fundraising goals. At RILS, she will utilize her skills to increase awareness of RILS and its projects that aid low-income Rhode Islanders.



Annie graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 2016, and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts at Rhode Island College. She is originally from West Greenwich, RI and now resides in Warwick with her boyfriend and her dog, Steely.

Employment Opportunities at RILS:

Staff Attorney

Looking for a Staff Attorney with 5-10 years of Family Law experience and able to manage large caseload. Offering \$62K-\$70K with excellent benefits!

[Apply Here!](#)

Rule-9/Senior Law Student

Looking for 2 Rule-9 or senior law students to work in our Housing Stability Project. This is a paid position.

[Apply Here!](#)

Law Students Internship

Looking for 4 law students to work in cooperation with AmeriCorps JD Equal Justice Works serving veterans.

[Apply Here!](#)

Please see our job postings on [Indeed](#) for more information.

**Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.*

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