

lives. I recently spoke with Dylan Borchers, an associate at Bricker & Eckler who participated in the YWCA Family Center, a brief advice legal clinic co-sponsored by the YWCA and LASC. Dylan appeared in court on behalf of his pro bono client just hours after his swearing-in ceremony. As a result of Dylan's counsel, his client was able to secure future employment and transition her family out of homelessness. In addition to achieving justice for his client, Dylan said that as a "non-litigator," he appreciated the new opportunity he had to argue in court. He will take the practical legal skills he learned through his volunteerism with him throughout his career.

For the underemployed new attorney, volunteering with legal aid is also an attractive option. Attorney volunteers may take advantage of direct supervision and support from legal aid attorneys. LASC hosts 20-30 in-house volunteers at any given time who volunteer between three and 30 hours per week. While job hunting, recent law graduates can expand their substantive legal knowledge, improve their legal research and writing skills, and maybe even carry their own case load. Kristy Postal, a 2012 law graduate, was interested in gaining experience while simultaneously providing a benefit to the community. She said that the legal aid attorneys at LASC helped navigate her through a complex area of law.

New attorneys can now earn CLE credits for pro bono legal services performed on or after January 1, 2014. For information on how to apply for CLE credit, visit the Supreme Court of Ohio's website.

I urge those in the profession, especially new attorneys, to support legal aid. You have the opportunity and the ability to make a tangible difference in the lives of children like Elijah and in the lives of vulnerable domestic violence victims, seniors, and veterans. By helping others achieve justice, your life and the life of the community changes for the better.



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# Civil Jury Trials

## FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

By Monica L. Waller

**Verdict: \$2,022,775.00 Business Dispute.** Plaintiffs ViaQuest, Inc., a corporation engaged in providing services to the developmentally disabled, and its wholly owned subsidiary, SupportCare, Inc., asserted that the former executive director of ViaQuest-- Defendant Lisha Manuel-- and the former program director of SupportCare-- Defendant Amy Seals, breached their duty of good faith and loyalty by using confidential information to become employed by and assist Plaintiffs' competitor Defendant Association for the Developmentally Disabled (ADD) to gain competitive advantage in the Cleveland area market. Plaintiffs alleged that Manuel and Seals made disparaging remarks to Plaintiffs' customers while Manuel and Seals were still employed by Plaintiffs in order to solicit clients for Defendant ADD and recruited Plaintiffs' employees in the Cleveland area to go to work for Defendant ADD. In addition to its breach of good faith and loyalty claim against Defendants Manuel and Seals, Plaintiffs asserted claims against all Defendants for misappropriation of trade secrets, unfair competition, tortious interference with business relationships and civil conspiracy and also sought injunctive relief. Defendants argued that Defendant Manuel was terminated from employment long before the incidents at issue and could not have breached a duty of good faith and loyalty. They also argued that Defendant Seals was not subject to any confidentiality agreement and did not solicit Plaintiffs' clients. According to Defendant Seals, Plaintiffs were refocusing their business which would result in a termination of services to her clients that Defendant ADD offered to provide. Moreover, Defendants argued that the Plaintiffs' claims were barred because the clients had a right under both federal and state law to choose their providers. Defendants also argued that the information Plaintiffs claimed were trade secrets were policies, procedures and job descriptions and did not meet the definition of a trade secret. Defendants also argued that client contact information was publicly available and also did not constitute a trade secret. Special Damages: In excess of \$4 Million. Plaintiffs' Expert: No information available. Defendants' Expert: No information available. Last Settlement Offer: \$300,000. Last Settlement Demand: \$1,000,000. Length of Trial: 9 days. Plaintiff's Counsel: William M. Mattes and Jeffrey A. Willis. Defendant's Counsel: Bradley K. Shafer. Judge Laurel Beatty. Case Caption: *ViaQuest, et al. v. Association for Developmentally Disabled, et al.* Case No. 12 CV 10705 (2013). (Note: The parties settled the case before the claims of punitive damages and attorney's fees were adjudicated.)

**Verdict: \$230,550.00 (\$3,500 in Economic; \$150,000 in Non-Economic; \$10,000 in Loss of Consortium). Automobile Accident.** On August 13, 2010, Defendant William Graves was traveling northbound on Georgesville Road and, while attempting to cross Holt Road, he was struck by a vehicle driven by Plaintiff Alyce Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan was traveling westbound on Holt Road and argued that she had the right of way and that Mr. Graves pulled out into the path of her vehicle. Mr. Graves died as a result of the injuries he sustained in the accident. The estate did not dispute liability. Ms. Sullivan went

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