

Honorable Richard B. Teitelman Memorial

STL PRO BONO CHALLENGE

2017

VOLUNTEER LAWYER OF THE MONTH



JARED MANSE
THOMPSON COBURN LLP



STEVE SHREDL
THOMPSON COBURN LLP

Thompson Coburn associates Jared Manse and Steve Shredl regularly handle complex patent cases and high-stakes litigation matters, respectively. But it was their work for a woman in a desperate housing situation that demonstrates the ability of attorneys to truly help one individual at a critical juncture in her life.

Through Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's Housing Law Program, Jared and Steve represented a St. Louis woman who paid an exorbitant deposit on an apartment in South City only to step outside her door two months later and see a freshly placed condemnation notice on the front of her building. Despite not having an occupancy permit for the property, the owner refused to return the woman's deposit and demanded she move out the very next day.

Once the woman was paired with Jared and Steve, the volunteer attorneys were able to negotiate with the property owner's attorney to secure a much more agreeable resolution: She would receive most of her deposit and have a week to move out. The mother of two children left the St. Louis Civil Courts building with a smile on her face. She now had time to find a new home for her family and some funds to defray moving costs.

"This case was one of 10 on my desk at any given time," said Steve Shredl. "But to this person, this is absolutely the most pressing issue in her life. Being able to talk directly to a client and help in situations like this is really fulfilling for me."

Said Jared Manse: "It was a really satisfying experience to help our client get her rent back when it's doubtful she could have done so without legal assistance. Things that might seem small for us in the legal profession are often hugely important for people without the income to defend themselves — even when they are in the right. I hope an outcome like this really benefits a client — now and in the future."

Steve assists clients in a variety of litigation matters in state and federal courts, and has worked on several major cases for clients in the food-agriculture, telecommunications, and financial services industries, including class actions. Jared has a PhD in Molecular Microbiology of Medicine and uses his unique perspective on the interplay between science and the law to advise clients on a host of complex legal and patent issues. The attorneys have collectively handled a number of pro bono matters for clients in landlord-tenant disputes, civil appointed prisoner cases, and youth legal defense.

