

Preview



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From the Executive Director



Hello VLJ friends,

In a few short days it will be spring and it couldn't come soon enough. There is something magical about the return of birds and the resiliency of plants that lay dormant all winter. Spring is usually a time of hope and possibility and this year brings the hope that we can get the pandemic under control.

This year we celebrate VLJ's 20th Anniversary! Be on the lookout for special publications throughout the year commemorating 20 years of 'taking cases and changing lives.' This year also marks the start of an ambitious strategic plan that will position VLJ for our next 20 years. VLJ will make the strategic plan a reality by mobilizing volunteers to work alongside our staff to fight economic, racial, and social injustice and to address the legal issues created and amplified by COVID-19.

We are going to need each of you to help us to reach our goals, especially once the eviction moratorium is lifted. Not only will record numbers of people be faced with homelessness, but eviction will lead to a cascading wave of other legal problems, including mounting debt, education issues, and employability issues. As Matthew Desmond so astutely noted in *Evicted*, "Eviction is a cause, not just a condition, of poverty."

So, we are calling on each of you to get involved today. Be inspired by our volunteer of the month Meg Slachetka, who is doing tremendous work in the area of eviction defense, and become an attorney volunteer. We also have a new program for non-lawyers to volunteer—[check out all of our upcoming trainings](#). Maybe you don't have time to volunteer, but you want to support economic, racial, and social justice—we need you too! Please consider [becoming a monthly donor](#) to support our work throughout the year.

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