



Philadelphia VIP proudly recognizes **Margo Murphy** for going above and beyond by *answering the call to serve.*

Thank you Margo!
May 2017 Volunteer of the Month

Described as motivating and uplifting by her colleagues, Margo Murphy is the true definition of a VIP “all-star.” An associate at Reilly, Janiczek, McDevitt, Henrich & Cholden P.C., Margo has taken four VIP cases (three of them within the last four months). Her enthusiasm is inspiring and she caught the attention of the VIP staff right away. “Margo is fantastic!” says VIP Staff Attorney Lindsay Schoonmaker. “She’s efficient, confident and always willing to take different case types.” Her colleague, Kendra Courtney Adjei adds, “Margo shows that you can volunteer to help those less fortunate, no matter how busy you are.”



Encouraged by her parents, both active volunteers in Daytona Beach, Margo volunteered for an immigration clinic throughout law school. “My mom previously worked for a federal anti-poverty organization and both my parents have taught me to do what I can to give back.” Today, she volunteers with animal rescue organizations in addition to VIP.

Margo says she loves volunteering for VIP because “the organization is focused on both the lawyer and the client. They go the extra mile to make it simple for the attorney. It feels like they are always thinking of you.”

At her firm, Margo concentrates her practice in insurance defense work in personal injury, auto accidents and slip-and-fall cases. So she was slightly nervous to take her first collections case. “I thought, ‘I don’t know what I’m doing and I don’t want to mess this up.’ The VIP Staff willingly offered to set me up with a mentor attorney, gave me training resources, and walked me through questions and concerns. The materials were exactly what I needed for court. VIP provides you with paperwork, case notes and the client’s information so you can jump right in without wasting any time.”

In collections cases, many clients don’t know their rights and there are many nuances to the law. Without a volunteer attorney, low-income residents are at a complete disadvantage, left to fend for themselves in an intimidating negotiation with the opposing counsel. Many pay more than they should because of unforeseen interest charges, and often are required to pay the full amount right away. In these cases it’s crucial for VIP clients to have a volunteer attorney to go up against the banks.

“All of my clients have been invested in their cases,” says Margo. “They want to know the process and understand the system and problem solve together. Also, the clients are so appreciative; I’ve gotten hugs and phone calls and thank you’s. Pro bono work is truly gratifying because it doesn’t take a ton of time, you build new skills as a lawyer, and you can literally change someone’s life.”

Margo is a dedicated volunteer who is committed to helping her community. We applaud her partnership in helping VIP achieve access to justice for all.