



November 2017 Volunteer of the Month

Philadelphia VIP recognizes **Doug Stuart** as our **Volunteer of the Month** for going above and beyond in **answering the call to serve**. Thank you, Doug!

What are the keys to a rewarding and successful volunteer experience with Philadelphia VIP?

Our Volunteer of the Month, Doug Stuart, explains how three keys – **starting small, using available resources, and partnering up** – have enabled him to build a track record of pro bono service. Doug is Senior Counsel of Global Corporate Transactions at Chubb, where he focuses his practice on corporate transactional matters. Doug’s pathway to Chubb, where he is about to celebrate his tenth anniversary, started with working as a paralegal in New York City, and then proceeded through Rutgers Law, six years at Montgomery McCracken, and a decade-plus at UGI Corporation.



Doug is motivated by a combination of professional responsibility and altruism to volunteer his time and talents to pro bono. “Lawyers have a unique skill set to lend their professional services to help others. We’re at an advantage because of our knowledge of the legal system, and anyone in that position can give back in some way. If we have that opportunity, then we should all engage in pro bono.”

Start Small. Doug advises volunteers to “start with an easier case. Whether it’s a case in landlord-tenant law, property, or mortgage foreclosure, try something you feel comfortable with.” VIP has a wide range of cases available – from A (adoption) to Z (zoning) – and team members are eager to consult with volunteer attorneys to find the right fit.

Use Available Resources. Even as an experienced corporate attorney, Doug himself uses, and encourages volunteers to use, VIP’s wide range of resources, including training manuals, sample forms, training videos, and the expertise of mentor attorneys and VIP staff members.

Partner Up. Through VIP’s Corporate Counsel Collaborative, Doug partners with Cozen O’Connor Associate Alison Lecker on probate cases, a model he says offers “a great opportunity to gain additional support from a lawyer with a different perspective.” As VIP Staff Attorney Lindsay Schoonmaker notes, “Doug and Alison work through probate cases in no time at all. By joining forces, they can provide excellent service to their clients, especially in an area of law where it is often difficult to find assistance.”

VIP’s Corporate Counsel Collaborative, which began in 2014, matches in-house legal departments with law firms to work on pro bono cases, leveraging collaboration to expand impact for clients. Chubb was one of the first corporations to participate in the project. “It’s wonderful to work for a company that really values pro bono, and we have a committee set up specifically to foster pro bono involvement” says Doug. “Our General Counsel, Kevin Rampe, is completely supportive of our work, and my colleague, Kim Takacs, has been instrumental in building Chubb’s partnership with VIP.”

VIP is so grateful to Doug for his tremendous pro bono service, and for sharing his insights about how to make it easy to say “YES!” to pro bono.

**Doug is a dedicated volunteer who is committed to helping his community.
We applaud his leadership and partnership in helping VIP achieve access to justice for all.**