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## Press Release

### **Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service**

**For Immediate Release, Baltimore, MD, August 26, 2014:**

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) and Civil Justice, Inc. are pleased to announce the opening of the Foreclosure Mediation Brief Advice Project. Foreclosure rates remain high in Maryland while dropping in the rest of the country. Despite best efforts at substantial outreach to homeowners, the majority of those facing foreclosure do not obtain any legal counsel or advice. This Project is the latest effort to help Marylanders preserve housing through the ongoing foreclosure crisis.

The Project, which officially launched on August 4, provides free limited legal services for homeowners who are not represented by an attorney. This includes answering questions about foreclosure and the mediation process, giving legal advice, helping homeowners understand court papers and other documents regarding foreclosure, and making referrals to legal services providers for representation. Walk-in services are available Mondays and Wednesdays from 8AM – 4:30PM at the Office of Administrative Hearings, located at 11101 Gilroy Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031. No appointment is necessary. No new intakes are accepted after 4pm. Any homeowner can utilize this free service, no matter where they are in the foreclosure process. MVLS and Civil Justice, Inc. are coordinating this effort, with the support of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Homeowners facing foreclosure are encouraged to contact the HOPE Hotline at 877-462-7555 for information on housing counselors in their area and to inquire about legal representation early on in the process. This new project will provide homeowners with another way to receive legal advice and assistance.

Questions about the Project can be directed to Lonni Summers, Managing Attorney for Foreclosure Prevention and Consumer Law at 443-451-4064 or lsummers@mvlslaw.org

or Carrie McCully, Director of Operations and Programs at 410-706-0174 or [cmccully@civiljusticenetwork.org](mailto:cmccully@civiljusticenetwork.org).

Founded in 1981, MVLS is the largest provider of pro bono legal services in Maryland. Our 2,000 volunteer lawyers provide free civil legal assistance to low-income residents and community-based nonprofits across the state. MVLS volunteers represent clients in a wide range of cases, including foreclosure, bankruptcy, and income tax disputes, landlord/tenant disputes, and consumer rights, denial of public benefits, wills, divorce/custody, and deed changes.

Civil Justice, Inc. is a non-profit corporation formed for the purpose of increasing the delivery of legal services to clients of low and moderate income while promoting a statewide network of solo, small firm and community based lawyers who share a common commitment to increasing access to justice through traditional and non-traditional means.

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