

AWARE - DCVLP and Domestic Violence

This blog is sponsored by the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide high-quality, free legal services to low-income District of Columbia residents in family law cases.

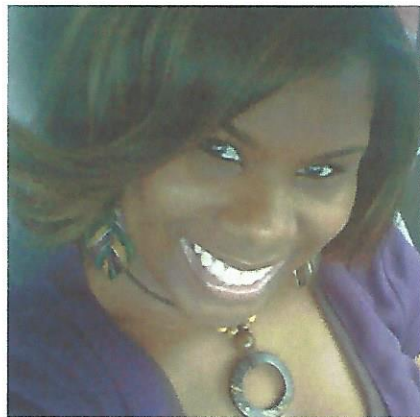
Wednesday, October 24, 2012

DCVLP Volunteer of the day: Melanie Bates is passionate about pro-bono work

In continuing our **celebration** of our amazing pro-bono attorneys, today we feature **Melanie Bates** who has been active with DCVLP since June 2012.

In her spare time from her full-time job as a Contract Paralegal Specialist for the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Melanie dedicates herself to not only DCVLP, but also another organization to aid single mothers.

She feels **grateful** to be a part of DCVLP, as it affords her the opportunity to assist others in need.



When asked about her experience with DCVLP thus far, Melanie responded, *“It is so **satisfying** to know that we are making a positive impact in [our clients] lives.”*

For Melanie, it is imperative that there are volunteers doing pro-bono work for the domestic violence community in DC where too many of the residents cannot afford the necessary legal support. She highlights the importance of **empowering** domestic violence litigants in the **fight** to end the cycle of violence in the community.

Her advice to other pro-bono attorneys would be to stay **positive** when handling these cases. Melanie stresses this necessity in the face of the often-times draining and overwhelming nature of these cases of such gravity.

*“It is **imperative to always remember that we are privileged to have a license to practice law. We must always strive to help those who need us.**”*

We at DCVLP commend Melanie for her exceptional dedication to helping those who need it most in our DV Community. Thank you Melanie for being a part of DCVLP.

Yours in advocacy,
Becca
DCVLP Legal Intern

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