

FOR ALL

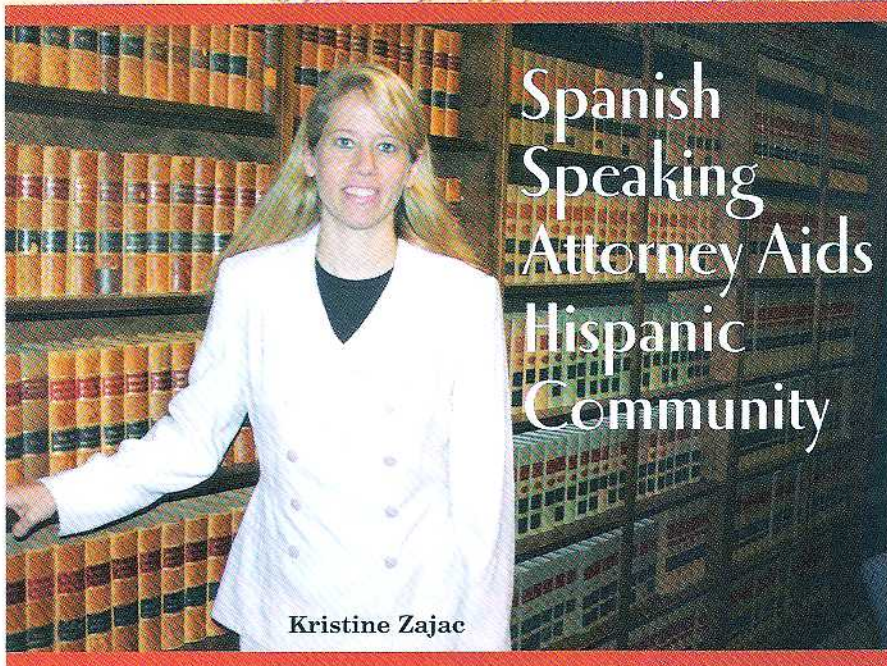
...insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defense, and our Posterity, We ordain and establish this Constitution

“He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy,



“Speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Proverbs 31: 8-9



Kristine Zajac

Spanish Speaking Attorney Aids Hispanic Community

Minneapolis attorney Kristine Zajac integrates her faith and profession in a way she defines as gentle encouragement.

This 31-year-old woman uses her Spanish-speaking abilities to serve the Hispanic community as part of her private practice. It saves people the cost of hiring an interpreter.

“Many of my clients do not speak any English,” says Zajac, who estimates that 60 percent of her business is with the Hispanic community. She also writes a legal advice column for *The Latino Voice* newspaper, which serves Twin Cities’ Spanish-speaking people.

Whether or not Zajac is focusing on family law, criminal law or accident cases, within or outside the Hispanic community, she often has a chance to quietly guide clients to spiritual help.

“I see people at some of the lowest points in their lives. They’re questioning their life. I’ve had people come in heartbroken, crying – male and female.

“I see a lot of tears, confusion, people who are turning to vices to deal with their problems.”

Zajac serves clients from all different faith backgrounds – or no faith at all. Her own Christian faith is lived out by comforting those she can, by not judging her clients and by steering them to additional help – counselors, pastors, and even books. *Love Languages* by Gary Chapman is one of her favorites.

“I’ve recommended that people read that,” she says. “Maybe they could start communicating their love language to a spouse. Who knows? Maybe that could miracu-

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lously turn a marriage around.”

While in the midst of divorce or other struggles, many clients question if their life has meaning, Zajac says, and that’s when she can offer a word of wisdom.

“In my own quiet way, I can say, ‘Maybe you want to start going to church or see a pastor.’ That way they can find answers to some of the questions that are going through their minds.

“I don’t lay it on thick,” she says. “That’s not my style. My style is a quiet way.”

Zajac also sees herself as an encourager.

“I try to help people keep going, tell them that things will look better in a year, that they will be able to go on after a divorce. If they have to do some jail time, I tell them that there can still be a brighter future for them and that they still have value.” ▲

Julie Holmquist
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True Stories From Around The Country

Pablo, an undocumented individual from Mexico who does not speak English, was referred to the Minneapolis Christian legal aid clinic because some of the staff speaks Spanish. He had recently vacated an apartment, and the owner refused to refund the damage deposit. Over several weeks, a volunteer attorney negotiated with Pablo’s old landlord to refund a substantial portion of the deposit.

Dogged by a previous Michigan juvenile conviction for larceny, a young school teacher was unable to pursue his profession. He eventually became homeless and discouraged until a Christian legal aid volunteer lawyer helped him expunge his record so he could resume his teaching and a normal life.

A superintendent on skyscraper construction projects in a major Canadian city became devastated when his wife of 21 years filed for divorce. He became addicted to drugs, homeless and began sleeping under a bridge. He hungrily accepted God’s invitation, presented by a CLA volunteer lawyer, to receive Christ. He then had the inner strength to attempt to escape from poverty and returned to his former employment.

A young widow with a 7-year-old child came to Christ during an interview with a Christian legal aid lawyer in Seattle. She had previously received the lawyer’s help when facing an abusive boyfriend. Returning to her home that afternoon, she told her son, “You have a new Mom.”

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also been a valuable experience for this attorney.

“You learn to sense the brotherhood of the fellowship of Christian believers regardless of class or income,” he says. “They really appreciate that I take time out of my practice to give them free help, and that just uplifts me.”

At the New Hope Center in Minneapolis, Baertschi has been privileged to witness lives being transformed.

“You see a dramatic change from how they described their life with drug addiction and other problems. Now you see them at peace, you see them with a spirit of forgiving their enemies. You see them taking steps to rectify some of their misdeeds, to rebuild their relationship with their children. Just seeing the change in people has been a wonderful experience.”

Twin Cities Christian Legal Aid is planning a training and informational meeting for those interested in the ministry. Check the web site, www.tccla.com, for details, or call Paul Baertschi at 612-337-5577. ▲

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