



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

Thank you, Sheldon! August 2016 Volunteer of the Month

Sheldon Bender does whatever he can to better the lives of others. He's passionate about supporting his community and aiding underserved individuals, children, and families. That's why he's a devoted Philadelphia VIP volunteer, offering his paralegal expertise to resolve cases that have a significant amount of red-tape.

He describes himself as a "mechanic" who works meticulously to solve his clients' civil disputes. "I help with the technical aspects," he explains. "I'm like the guy who gets under the hood of the car and drills down to find the problem."



A Philadelphia native, Sheldon received his Bachelors degree in history and worked on several achraeological sites before enrolling in the Institute of Paralegal Training. When he completed his certification, he joined Blank Rome's real estate department and has been with the firm for 32 years. This valued employee specializes in transactional matters, assisting the matrimonial group, estates and trust practice, environmental law group, corporate, and financial services group. Outise of the office, Sheldon teaches scuba diving classes and enjoys spending his time reading or watching classic films.

Sheldon was introduced to VIP through Blank Rome's Pro Bono Program and was impressed with the opportunity to improve his skills and help clients in need. "VIP does a great job of consistently circulating their case lists to Blank Rome. Whenever I see something that fits my area of expertise, I'll do what I can to help." He assists VIP clients with administrative issues such as preparing or recording documents.

Not all cases are easy or successful he says, but that doesn't deter him. Sheldon remembers a homeownership case where a client with seven children was trying to obtain legal title to repair her house. Unfortunately, her landlord disappeared and never signed the deed. Sheldon pursued every way to bring the landlord to the table, even arranging to have his client's utilities restored, but it was too late to resolve the dispute. This particular case made him even more resolute to help his clients in any way that he can.

VIP's staff values Sheldon's dedication and professionalism when handling challenging situations with urgent deadlines. Rida Haq explains, "He helped us save the homes of two different clients who had very time-sensitive issues regarding their properties. It's wonderful that clients have someone as reliable as Sheldon to count on for these very serious matters."

**Sheldon is a dedicated volunteer who is committed to helping his community.
We applaud his commitment to helping VIP achieve access to justice for all.**