PILI’s mission is to cultivate a lifelong commitment to public interest law and pro bono service within the Illinois legal community to expand the availability of legal services for people, families and communities in need.

We envision a legal community with a deeply rooted culture of service, where law students, lawyers and legal professionals at all stages of their careers engage in public interest law or pro bono work, and remain committed to addressing the unmet legal needs of the poor and underrepresented.

“The importance of PILI is really being at the center place of where the need for pro bono services are, the resources are, and the information is.”

- Reena Bajowala, PILI Alum

About PILI

PILI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

Our Work, The Impact & Your Support

» Make a donation: www.pili.org/donate
» Join PILI’s Giving Circles and commit to an annual gift to PILI for five years: www.pili.org/giving-circles
» Provide law firm or corporate support, including event sponsorship: www.pili.org/law-firm-corporate
» Sponsor a Named or Honorary Intern: www.pili.org/named-internships
» Additional ways to support PILI:
  • Testamentary gift or bequest
  • Employer’s matching gifts
  • Gifts of stock or securities
  • IRA charitable rollover
  • Designate cy pres funds

“Though it sounds trite, it really takes a village to pull off what PILI has accomplished.”

- Kimball Anderson, PILI Board Member

Contact PILI

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Our Work

Law Student Internship Program
PILI's Law Student Internship Program connects law students from across the country with public interest law agencies in Illinois and pays them for their work. The Internship Program is offered statewide in Alton, Bloomington, Chicago, East St. Louis, Champaign, Peoria and Rock Island. PILI ensures quality supervision by experienced attorneys while also providing supplemental programming, networking and educational opportunities.

Graduate Fellowship Program
PILI's Graduate Fellowship Program places new associates from Chicago law firms at public interest law agencies in Illinois, where they are typically paid by their hiring firm to work between graduation and starting at the firm. The program offers Fellowship placements at 60 Participating Agencies throughout Illinois. Through this program, PILI helps public interest law agencies increase their impact while also helping new lawyers develop their legal and client interaction skills, build their professional networks, and strengthen their commitment to helping others.

Alumni Network
Today, nearly 4,000 law students and graduates have participated in PILI's Internship and Fellowship Programs. PILI's Alumni Network builds and maintains the connection between past PILI Interns and Fellows and the public interest law community through educational, networking, leadership, and service opportunities.

Pro Bono Initiative
PILI works collaboratively with law firms, corporations, public interest law agencies, law schools and the judiciary to expand the availability of pro bono legal services across Illinois. Through innovative projects such as its Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees, PILI provides pro bono programming and resources to promote and enhance pro bono services and increase equal access to justice statewide.

The Impact

Approximately 60 Interns are now being placed in 7 cities across the state every year.

A 51% growth in the number of Law Student Interns funded over the last 6 years.

PILI Interns provide over 20,000 hours of legal services through our partner agencies each year.

Over 70 incoming associates participate in the Graduate Fellowship Program every year.

Over a dozen Chicago law firms offer this opportunity to incoming associates.

PILI Fellows provide over 21,000 hours of legal services through our partner agencies annually.

Each year, Interns and Fellows join the ranks of 4,000 PILI Alumni.

PILI's Alumni Network staffs a monthly community law clinic, helping dozens of clients through PILI every year.

Also also gather for CLEs, fundraisers and other service projects regularly.

Approximately 170 attendees participate in Pro Bono Roundtables & Forums annually.

Over 150 attorneys assist more than 500 clients each year through the Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees.

The Committees also host regular CLE programs, providing pro bono training to over 500 attendees annually.