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Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI): cultivating a lifelong commitment to public interest law

Greetings!

For thirty years, the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) has cultivated a lifelong commitment to public interest law by creating opportunities for law students and lawyers to provide public interest and pro bono work in Illinois. We hope you will find this e-newsletter informative and we appreciate your involvement and support of PILI.

Yours truly,
[The Staff of the Public Interest Law Initiative](#)

PILI News

PILI Launches New E-newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of PILI's new e-newsletter. This newsletter is your source for information on all of PILI's programs and efforts, combining our former e-newsletters, the Pro Bono Advocate and the Alumni Connection. We hope you find this new format to be informative and interesting.

PILI Launches Integrated Website

PILI has developed a new organizational website that fully integrates all of our programs. Visit www.pili-law.org today for information about PILI, its programs and resources. We are now forwarding all traffic from the www.probonoinitiative.org website to PILI's home page. If you had links to the old probonoinitiative.org website, please update the links to the new integrated www.pili-law.org address.

PILI Annual Awards Luncheon a Great Success



On December 4, 2008, over 400 members of the Illinois public interest law community gathered to celebrate the best aspects of the legal profession. Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald (pictured) was the keynote speaker. [Learn more about PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon.](#)

PILI Has a New Zip Code

Effective as of July 1, 2008, PILI's zip code has changed and is now 60654. Please update your records for PILI and our staff to reflect this change.

PILI Internship & Fellowship Programs

PILI Interns (first or second year law students) and PILI Fellows (recent law school graduates) work at, and learn about, legal institutions serving the public interest. Below is the latest news about PILI's Internship and Fellowship Programs. Visit PILI's website to learn more about the [Internship](#) and [Fellowship](#) Programs.

PILI Now Accepting Applications for 2009 Internship Program

To date, over 370 law students have submitted a total of 1,800

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applications for Summer 2009 PILI Internships. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis through March 2009. [Click here to apply for a 2009 PILI Internship.](#) To learn more, contact PILI's Executive Director, Susan J. Curry, at 312-832-5128 or scurry@pili-law.org.

Over Two Dozen Law Firms Sponsoring 2009 PILI Fellows

To date, 20 PILI Fellows have been placed at PILI's participating agencies for summer 2009. Over two dozen law firms sponsor incoming associates to work at a participating public interest law organization during the summer of their bar exam. [Learn more about the law firms that sponsor PILI Fellowships.](#)

PILI Participating Agencies Offer Wide Array of Experience for PILI Interns and Fellows

There are over 50 public interest law organizations at which PILI Interns and Fellows are placed each year. These agencies offer PILI Interns and Fellows a wide range of opportunities, from litigation to policy research and advocacy to transactional work; subject specific work to general legal assistance; or work at nonprofit organizations or law school-based legal clinics or government entities. A committee of PILI's Board of Directors reviews new requests from agencies or projects to host PILI Interns or Fellows and current participating agencies are evaluated each year. [Learn about PILI's Participating Agencies.](#)

PILI Alumni Program

In 2007, PILI established an Alumni Program for its over 3,000 former PILI Interns and Fellows in an effort to ensure their lifelong commitment to public interest law. Below is the latest news about PILI's Alumni Program. Visit PILI's website to learn more about its [Alumni Program](#).

Former PILI Fellow Recognized at PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon



After graduating from the Northwestern University School of Law in 1990, Charles P. Golbert (pictured) served as PILI Fellow at the Cook County Office of the Public Guardian, sponsored by the law firm now known as Katten Muchin Rosenman. [Read more...](#)

Former PILI Intern Recognized at PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon

A 1985 Intern at Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU, today Laurie A. Wardell (pictured) is the Director of the Employment Opportunity Project at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, where she herself is now a popular supervisor of PILI Interns and Fellows. [Read more...](#)



PILI Alumni Leaders Planning for 2009

Leaders of PILI's Alumni Circle are currently working on several new and exciting events and projects. Three committees have been established to focus on these efforts over the next year. We are looking for PILI Alumni to join committees to plan our Alumni efforts for 2009 and beyond. [Read more...](#)

Join the PILI Alumni Group on LinkedIn Today

Are you LinkedIn? If so, PILI has now established a PILI Alumni Program group on LinkedIn and you are encouraged to join today. Alumni who attended the last year's program on rainmaking learned the value and important of online professional networking tools such as LinkedIn. If you'd like more information, contact PILI Pro Bono Initiative Director, Michael Bergmann, at 312-832-5129 or mbergmann@pili-law.org.

PILI Pro Bono Program

PILI's Pro Bono Initiative is your pro bono resource for establishing or enhancing a law firm or corporate pro bono program in Illinois. PILI also works with legal aid and public interest law organizations to promote and enhance their pro bono opportunities. Below is the latest news about PILI's Pro Bono Initiative. Visit PILI's website to learn more about PILI's [Pro Bono Initiative](#).

Caterpillar Recognized for the Pro Bono Contributions at PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon



Building upon an 80-year tradition of corporate volunteerism and public service, Caterpillar Inc.'s Legal Services Division recently launched a program that made pro bono activity a permanent part of their corporate culture. [Read more...](#)

Pictured: Caterpillar Inc's Chris Dekker accepts 2008 PILI Pro Bono Initiative Award from Allegra Rich, Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Illinois Appellate Justice Sheila O'Brien to be Guest Speaker at PILI's Annual Celebrating Pro Bono Reception

On Thursday, June 11, 2009 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., PILI will host its annual "Celebrating Pro Bono" Reception at the Harold Washington Library Center Winter Garden Room. Illinois Appellate Court Justice Sheila O'Brien will be our distinguished guest and welcoming speaker. [Read more...](#)

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