



April/May 2010

Issue: 8



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

Greetings!

Since its founding in 1977, PILI has cultivated a lifelong commitment to public interest law by creating opportunities for law students and attorneys to provide public interest and pro bono work in Illinois.

We hope you will find this e-newsletter informative and we appreciate your involvement in and support of PILI.

Yours truly,

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

Susan J. Curry, Executive Director
Michael G. Bergmann, Director of Programs
R. Alex Kliner, Development Associate

PILI News

PILI Receives Continued Support from the Helen Brach Foundation

The Helen Brach Foundation, a family foundation funded by the late heiress to the Brach's candy company, has renewed its support of PILI's programs in the amount of \$10,000. These funds will directly support two 2010 summer PILI Internships at PILI Participating Agencies that defend and advance the interests of vulnerable children and disabled persons. PILI has been the grateful recipient of support from the Helen Brach Foundation since 2005 and is honored to include the Foundation among those dedicated to cultivating a lifelong commitment to public interest law.

PILI Receives Funding for 2010 Internship from Illinois State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division

PILI recently received a grant from the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) Young Lawyers Division (YLD) for a named ISBA YLD Intern for the summer of 2010. PILI is extremely grateful to receive this grant which will fund one 2010 Summer Intern to work primarily on child-focused legal advocacy. This grant is made possible through the ISBA YLD Children's Assistance Fund.

Union League Civic & Arts Foundation Continues and Increases its Support of the PILI Internship Program

PILI is very grateful for the continued yearly support of the [Union League Civic & Arts Foundation](#). The Civic Committee of the Civic & Arts Foundation draws on its members' expertise and experience in the legal, education, and finance communities to organize and support programs that are strategically designed to motivate understanding, respect, and appreciation for social issues that affect Chicagoans. For several years, the Foundation has partnered with PILI to financially support law student internships at Chicago-area agencies that provide legal services for the disadvantaged. PILI is thrilled to announce that, in these trying financial times, the Foundation has notified us of its renewed and increased support for the summer of 2010.

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[New Illinois Supreme Court Rule Permits Retired, Inactive and Corporate Attorneys to Perform Pro Bono Work](#)

[Illinois Supreme Court Rule 756\(j\) Pro Bono Authorization Forms](#)

[Other Useful Links](#)

Customized Pro Bono Resources and Opportunities

[For Law Students](#)

Save the Date: PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon is Moving!

After 15 years in the same location, PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon will be held in a new venue later this year. Each year PILI's Annual Award Luncheon gathers more than 450 members of the legal community to celebrate the best aspects of the profession. The 2010 PILI Annual Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 9th at the Renaissance Downtown Chicago Hotel. More details will be available in the coming months.

PILI Law Student Internship & Graduate Fellowship Programs

PILI Interns (first or second year law students) and PILI Fellows (recent law school graduates) work in and learn about public interest law, and begin what PILI hopes is a lifelong commitment to public interest law and pro bono work. 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.

2010 PILI Summer Educational Series Schedule is Announced

Each summer, as part of its Internship and Fellowship Programs, PILI organizes educational and skills-building seminars during the lunch hour for Interns and Fellows on a variety of substantive law and professional development topics. The 2010 Summer Educational Series will launch with the kick-off luncheon on Wednesday, June 2nd at which John Bouman, Executive Director of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law will address this year's class of PILI Interns and Fellows. [Read more...](#)

Summer 2010 PILI Internship Program Update

PILI had a very impressive pool of over 413 law students from 96 law schools nationwide applying for an Internship at one of twenty of PILI's Participating Agencies. Despite significant financial challenges due to the reduction or elimination of funding from several sources, we were able to make 31 summer grants to fund this year's class of summer Interns. PILI funds these 400-hour internships for first and second-year law students from across the country to work during the summer at public interest law agencies in the Chicago area. PILI also offers a limited number of 200-hour school year internships for Chicago area law students. [Read more...](#)

PILI Alumni Program

Today, over 3,000 law students and graduates have participated in PILI's Internship and Fellowship Programs. The Alumni Program maintains the connection between these public interest lawyers, PILI and the public interest law community. Below is the latest news about PILI's Alumni Program. Visit PILI's website to learn more about its [Alumni Program](#).

PILI Launches Alumni Public Interest Law Training Series

This year, PILI is launching a training series for alumni to learn about specific areas of law and related pro bono opportunities with public interest law organizations.

The first program will be hosted by Hinshaw & Culbertson on Thursday, May 20th and will feature [Lawyers Committee for Better Housing](#). Attorneys from LCBH will present and answer questions on how the eviction process works and how you can contribute to LCBH's mission of ensuring safe, decent and affordable housing for Chicago's tenants by representing clients in Eviction Court.

The second program will be hosted by Jones Day and held on Monday, August 2nd and will feature [Chicago Volunteer Legal Services](#). CVLS will provide comprehensive training for interested volunteers for serving as a Guardian Ad Litem or representing the petitioner in adult disabled guardianship matters, including written materials, and will additionally provide attorneys with simple, entry-level cases to handle.

CLE credit is being requested for these programs and lunch will be provided to attendees. Advance registration for these complimentary programs is required. [Read more...](#)

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Calling all PILI Alumni for the First Annual PILI Alumni Reunion Reception at theWit

PILI is thrilled to announce that it will be holding its first annual PILI Alumni Reunion Reception on Thursday, September 30 from 6:00pm-9:00pm at [theWit](#). The newest component of the PILI Alumni Program, the Alumni Reunion Reception will bring together current and former PILI Interns and Fellows for an exciting social event. Help us celebrate over 30 successful years of the PILI Internship and Fellowship Programs with drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and great company. Whether you are a former PILI Intern or Fellow or simply a supporter of PILI and its mission, we certainly hope you can join us. More information and ticket sales will be available on PILI's website in the coming weeks and in the June/July e-newsletter. You may also contact PILI's Director of Programs, Michael Bergmann, at 312-832-5129 or mbergmann@pili-law.org for additional information.

Alumni Spotlight: 1992 PILI Fellow, Paul Brown

During the summer of 1992, Paul Brown was sponsored by Kirkland & Ellis as a PILI Fellow at the Legal Assistance Foundation's Uptown Neighborhood office. Paul explains that he had an interesting mix of work including obtaining orders of protection for abused women, assisting tenants in disputes with their landlords, and helping clients with a variety of consumer and family law matters. Prior to joining Kirkland in September 1993, Paul served as a law clerk for Sixth Circuit US Court of Appeals Judge James Ryan. In 2002, Paul left Kirkland to accept an in-house position as Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for BlueCross BlueShield Association (BCBSA), which is the national trade association for the 39 separate Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans. Paul says that "because of my positive PILI Fellowship experiences, when I entered private practice I did quite a bit of pro bono work at Kirkland, including the extended representation of a client in a multi-year prisoner civil rights case and have continued doing pro bono as an in-house lawyer."



[Read more...](#)

Alumni Spotlight: 2007 PILI Intern, Susan DeCostanza



During her PILI Internship, Susan DeCostanza worked at Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS). In this role, Susan worked with clients on family law matters including both adoption and dissolution of marriage, representing the best interests of children in probate court, completing intake interviews and working with CVLS attorneys on housing law cases. After graduating from law school, Susan worked with a civil rights law firm and spent time directing the Pro Bono and Community Service Initiative at DePaul. Currently, Susan is a Career Counselor in Chicago-Kent's Career Services Office, where Susan addresses career and professional development issues with students and alumni who are interested in pursuing a career in the public service/public interest community. Susan noted that "my fondest memory from participation in the PILI programs is generally the relationships that I built. It was inspiring to work with dedicated attorneys and I have also kept in touch with the other law students with whom I interned." [Read more...](#)

PILI Pro Bono Initiative Program

Through its Pro Bono Initiative, PILI works collaboratively with law firms, corporations, public interest law agencies and law schools to create and promote work environments, programs and opportunities that help new associates and seasoned attorneys actualize their commitment to pro bono work. Below is the latest news about PILI's Pro Bono Initiative. Visit PILI's website to learn more about [PILI's Pro Bono Initiative](#).

PILI/CBF Pro Bono Forum - Tuesday, May 25th

The Spring 2010 Pro Bono Forum will be held from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25th at The Chicago Bar Association Headquarters. In addition to the panel discussion titled "Pro Bono 2010: The New Era of Pro Bono," there will be roundtable discussions focusing on evaluating solutions and identifying new ideas for implementation as well as opportunities for collaboration among law firms, corporate legal departments, law schools and public interest law organizations. There will also be a networking reception for program attendees. Advance registration is required for

this complimentary program. [Read more...](#)

Honorable Dorothy Kirie Kinnaird to Deliver Welcoming Remarks at PILI's Annual "Celebrating Pro Bono" Reception

The 2010 "Celebrating Pro Bono" Reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2010 at the [Ivy Room at Tree Studios](#), located at 12 East Ohio Street (Ohio & State). Please join your fellow pro bono advocates from all facets of our legal community—from law firms, corporations, law schools, and public interest law organizations—as well as the current class of PILI Interns and Fellows in celebrating pro bono relationships and successes. This dynamic annual event features a brief program, appetizers, and refreshments, as well as wonderful conversation and networking opportunities. Honorable Dorothy Kirie Kinnaird, Presiding Judge of the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County will deliver welcoming remarks. Individual tickets are \$50 per admission and are available from PILI's website. For additional information about the event and sponsorship opportunities, contact PILI's Director of Programs, Michael Bergmann, at 312-832-5129 or mbergmann@pili-law.org. Additional information is available on our [website](#).

PILI to Launch Pro Bono Recognition Roster to Honor Law Firm and Corporate Pro Bono Leadership

PILI seeks to recognize the noteworthy pro bono contributions of law firms and corporate legal departments throughout the state of Illinois, as well as their attorneys and staff. PILI will acknowledge those law firms and corporate legal departments with exemplary pro bono programs through its Pro Bono Recognition Roster, which will be highlighted at its annual pro bono celebration on Thursday, June 17, 2010. Law firms and corporate legal departments must self-certify that they meet certain criteria to be included on PILI's Pro Bono Recognition Roster. [Read more...](#)

The Chicago Bar Foundation Now Accepting Nominations for Pro Bono & Public Service Awards

The CBF is now accepting nominations through May 17th for the CBA/CBF Pro Bono and Public Service Awards, which celebrate outstanding members of the legal profession who have used their talents and resources to improve access to justice for the less fortunate in our community. These six awards are presented each year at the CBA/CBF Annual Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, July 13th. [Read more...](#)

Pro Bono Spotlight: McDermott, Will & Emery LLP

McDermott Will & Emery has long recognized the importance of supporting and offering pro bono assistance to the less fortunate. In 2009, McDermott attorneys and staff donated more than 75,500 hours to pro bono and community service initiatives. McDermott's Chicago office has been instrumental in achieving significant victories for pro bono clients in a uniquely broad range of legal disciplines, including: civil rights and civil liberties; criminal defense; immigration/asylum; the Kids First Initiative; and community development/support. [Read more...](#)

The logo for McDermott Will & Emery LLP, featuring the firm's name in a serif font with "McDermott" on the top line, "Will &" in the middle, and "Emery" on the bottom line.

PILI Extended Placement Program

PILI encourages law firms to provide the opportunity for firm attorneys - whether new associates or seasoned attorneys - to be placed at a public interest law organization for an extended period of time in a rotation or fellowship program. PILI provides assistance to firms in developing such programs and in identifying public interest law organizations to host their attorneys. Below is the latest news about PILI's Extended Placement Program. Visit PILI's website to learn more about [PILI's Extended Placement Program](#).

Extended Placement Update

In Illinois, there have been approximately 60 extended public interest law placements from the class of 2009 and graduates from the class of 2010 are now seeking placements. These individuals come from law firms around the country and have had their start date deferred, their employment offer revoked, been laid-off, or opted to participate in their firm's sabbatical program. PILI has been working with The Chicago Bar Foundations and other public interest groups from around country on this issue and has locally taken the lead in placing many of these individuals with public interest law organizations.

Information for candidates, law firms and agencies is available on our website. [Read more...](#)

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