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PILI Public Interest Law Initiative

July/August 2011 | Issue: 15

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.

There are lots of ways for you to get involved with PILI in the coming months - from our newly announced Alumni Evening Program and Networking Reception in August and our Alumni Reunion Reception in October, to our PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono in September, or by submitting a nomination for one of PILI's Annual Awards - we hope we will be hearing from you or seeing you soon!

Details on our many upcoming events and programs are below, along with updates on our 2011 Summer Interns and Fellows and more! We hope you 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
Michael G. Bergmann, Executive Director
Shana Heller-Ogden, Development & Communications Associate
Julia Kepler, Office Administrator
Sheila Simhan, Program Manager

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PILI News

PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception: *Celebrating Pro Bono* a Success!
PILI held its 2011 Pro Bono Reception on June 15 at The Ivy Room at Tree Studios. Despite the pouring rain, we welcomed over 200 guests from the legal community, including representatives from law firms, corporate legal departments, law schools and legal service agencies, as well as the current class of PILI Interns and Fellows. PILI congratulates the 33 law firms and 9 corporations named to our 2011 Pro Bono Recognition Roster. We invite you to visit our website to see pictures from the event. A big thanks to our supporters and sponsors for making the event a success for PILI once again this year!

Guests from LexisNexis at PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception on June 15

Call for Nominations for PILI's 2011 Annual Awards
Nominations are now open for PILI's 2011 Annual Awards:

- The **Distinguished Public Service Award** honors an individual whose commitment to public interest work has shaped a career dedicated to service

- The **Distinguished Alumni Awards** recognize one former PILI Intern and one former PILI Fellow for outstanding contributions of public interest and/or pro bono work
- The **Pro Bono Initiative Award** acknowledges a single entity for its significant pro bono work in the community

You are welcome to submit self-nominations or to nominate another. Nominations should focus on the individual or entity's public interest or pro bono work focused in Illinois. While contributions made outside of Illinois will certainly be considered, the focus of these awards is to recognize individuals and entities for their contributions to the Illinois legal community. Click here for the nomination form, or visit our website for more information about the awards, the nomination process, or a list of past awardees. The nomination period will close on **September 2**. Awards will be presented at PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon on December 1.

PILI Receives Continued Support from the Francis Beidler Foundation
The Francis Beidler Foundation, a long time supporter of PILI's work, has recently awarded PILI a grant in the amount of $13,000. The Beidler Foundation provides general operating support in addition to an annual PILI Named Intern in honor of Alfred C. Tisdahl. PILI thanks the Beidler Foundation for its ongoing very generous support!

Congratulations to PILI Alumni and Friends of PILI!
PILI heartily congratulates the several PILI Alumni and friends of PILI who have been making headlines in the last few months for outstanding achievements in their careers or in pro bono work: **Michael Bergmann**, PILI Executive Director, is the chair-elect of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and will become chair at the ABA Annual Meeting next month; he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division on June 17; **Dick O'Malley**, partner at Sidley Austin LLP and current PILI Board Secretary, received the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago's Champion for Justice Award on June 24; 2007 PILI Intern Alumna **Rebecca Carson** has been selected to serve as the new Chief of Staff of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as of June 27; on July 12 two PILI Alumni were honored by the Chicago Bar Association at the Pro Bono & Public Service Awards Luncheon: **Erin McCloskey Maus**, Baker & McKenzie LLP, received the Edward J. Lewis II Pro Bono Service Award and **Jordan Heinz**, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, received the Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award. Do you know of more PILIs in the news? Send us an e-mail and we'll include them in our newsletter.

Dick O'Malley at PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception on June 15.

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.

Summer Internship and Fellowship Programs in Full Swing
Thirty-six PILI Interns and over 40 PILI Fellows are working at 44 legal service agencies in and around Chicago this summer, providing a critical boost to the capacities of these agencies to meet the needs of their clients. Now more than halfway through their summer programs,

Find Assistance With A Pro Bono Matter

Provide Assistance With A Pro Bono Matter

Customized Pro Bono Resources and Opportunities

For Law Students

For Corporate Counsel

For Paralegals

For Senior/Retired Attorneys

For Government Attorneys

PILI Has Gone Web 2.0. Join us!

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PILI Interns and Fellows are engaged in everything from commercial litigation and trademark protection to employment discrimination, family law, and disability rights and policy. They are serving children, seniors, people of color, people with disabilities, women, LGBT people and community groups across the state. They have also been attending PILI's summer educational programs, learning from local experts about issues and topics relevant to public interest law. Here is what some of our Interns and Fellows are saying about their experience as a PILI thus far:

The Honorable Edmond E. Chang, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and PILI Fellow Alumnus, addresses Interns and Fellows at the PILI Summer Kick-off Luncheon on June 1.

> "My experience as a PILI Intern with the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights has been a tremendous learning experience. The practical skills, legal knowledge, and connections that I have made will stay with me in whatever position I choose to take on next."
>
> - Sun Hee Choi, Law Student Intern from the University of Illinois College of Law

> "I have had a terrific experience working with the National Immigrant Justice Center. The attorneys and staff are extremely helpful and deeply passionate about their work, which inspires me to continue serving immigrant communities in the future."
>
> - Barbara Barreno, Graduate Fellow from Vanderbilt University, sponsored by Sidley Austin LLP

> "I could not have hoped for a better summer placement after my first year of law school."
>
> - Erin Grotheer, Law Student Intern from DePaul College of Law, working this summer at CARPLS

The 2011 Summer Educational Program for PILI Interns and Fellows will wrap up in early August

PILI Fall Semester School-Year Internships
PILI offers a limited number of school-year Internships during the fall and spring semesters. The application period for the 2011 fall semester will open on July 29, 2011. To apply for a school-year semester Internship, you must attend a Chicago-area law school. These internships are limited to second and third year law students. The list of agencies eligible to host PILI-funded school-year Interns in the fall will be available as of July 29, 2011. Please check our website for more information.

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 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.

Register Now for the Next PILI Alumni Program: Serving on a Nonprofit Board of Directors
PILI is pleased to announce a new Evening Program and Networking Reception for Alumni. The program, *Serving on a Nonprofit Board of Directors*, will feature an interactive segment exploring the dynamics of board service for attorneys as well as a segment on understanding nonprofit financial statements. The program will be held on **Tuesday, August 23** at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, 300 North LaSalle Street, from 5:30-7:30pm. The program will include an informal networking reception for Alumni, and PILI will be distributing a list of the latest board service and pro bono opportunities available within Chicago's public interest law community. We have applied for 1.0 hours of CLE credit for this program. Visit our website for more details about the program or to register today - this program is complimentary but

space is limited and registration is required!

Tickets Are On Sale for PILI's Second Annual Alumni Reunion Reception!
Last fall's inaugural Alumni Reunion Reception brought together 60 PILI Alumni from across 30 years of PILI programs at theWit in Chicago's Loop. This year, PILI Alumni are invited to gather for an International Wine and Cheese Tasting Reception at Bin 36, 339 North Dearborn, on Wednesday, October 5 from 5:30-7:30pm. Reconnect with your fellow PILI Alumni and help us celebrate PILI's Internship and Fellowship Programs with drinks, appetizers and great company! Proceeds from the event will support PILI Alumni Named Interns for the summer of 2012. Tickets and individual sponsorships are now available - visit our website to buy your tickets today!

Alumni Spotlight: Gail Kim, 2002 Intern & 2004 Fellow

Gail Kim carries the distinction of being a "double-PILI," having served both as a PILI Intern in 2002 at Cabrini Green Legal Aid, and as a PILI Fellow in 2004 at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. "My interest in public interest law started in law school, and PILI gave me a vehicle to exercise that interest," says Kim. Kim is now the Program Director and Director of Operations at the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms, contributing her experience and passion to the Chicago Committee's mission to foster racial and ethnic diversity in the Chicago legal community, impacting the broader legal profession. *Click here to read more.*

Alumni Spotlight: Anna Lusero, 2008 Intern & 2009 Intern

Anna Lusero entered law school knowing she wanted to do public interest law. In particular, Lusero knew she wanted to serve immigrant communities. Also a double-PILI, Lusero completed two summer Internships, one in 2008 at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, and the second in 2009 at the Legal Aid Bureau. At LAF, she worked with the Illinois Migrant Legal Assistance Project doing outreach to migrant farm workers and landscape workers to educate them about their labor rights and to assess their legal needs. At the Legal Aid Bureau she worked primarily with Spanish-speaking survivors of domestic violence on family law issues such as divorce, orders of protection and child custody. While in law school and after her Internships, Lusero also worked at Working Hands Legal Clinic on wage and hour litigation for low wage workers. She is active on nonprofit boards, including PILI's Board of Directors, where she is serving for two years as an Intern Representative to the board. Lusero was awarded a prestigious Equal Justice Works Fellowship after her graduation from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2010. *Click here to 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 Illinois Forum on Pro Bono: September 14
The 2011 PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono will be held on Wednesday, September 14 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the CBA Headquarters, 321 South Plymouth Court. The PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono brings together pro bono leaders from law firms, corporations, law schools and legal aid agencies to discuss timely pro bono issues and share pro bono best practices. This is a complimentary program, but registration is required: visit our website to register today.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP Receives John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Award from ISBA
Congratulations to Kirkland & Ellis LLP upon receiving the Illinois

State Bar Association's esteemed John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award, for which PILI was proud to nominate them this June. The John C. McAndrews Award honors the extraordinary commitment of an individual, bar association, law firm or corporate legal department to providing and expanding the availability of free legal services to the income eligible in Illinois. Read more about Kirkland and Ellis LLP's outstanding pro bono achievements in our Pro Bono Spotlight below!

Pro Bono Spotlight: Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP's commitment to pro bono work has established them as not only a critical supporter of legal services in Chicago, in Illinois, and across the country, but also as a leader in pro bono, providing innovative programs, high quality representation, and literally thousands of hours of pro bono work to low-income individuals and families. In 2010, partners, associates, paralegals and legal secretaries in Kirkland's Chicago office alone contributed more than 24,500 hours of pro bono work in partnership with 20+ Chicago-area legal service agencies. They handled 320 matters for 400 pro bono clients, in addition to the several thousand more affected by class action litigation. Sixty percent of Kirkland's attorneys currently participate in their pro bono program, with 35 attorneys having contributed over 200 hours to pro bono in the last year. Click here to read more.

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