Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

March/April 2011

Issue: 13

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.

In this issue of our newsletter, we are pleased to feature three exciting spotlights: two distinguished PILI Alumni, Jody Adler (Intern '79), Director of The Law Project, and LaShonda Hunt (Fellow '95), Assistant US Attorney, and one Pro Bono Spotlight, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, a recognized leader in civil legal aid services for low-income Chicagoans. We have information about upcoming Pro Bono Initiative events, including a newly scheduled Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable in April and our Annual Pro Bono Reception: Celebrating Pro Bono in June - just two months away!

This and more below - 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

PILI News

New Staff Member Joins PILI's Team
After welcoming a new Program Manager and a new Development and Communications Associate in February, PILI has rounded out its staff with a new Office Administrator, Julia Kepler, who started in March. Julia most recently worked as Office Manager and Assistant to the Executive Director for Congregation Bnei Ruven. In this position, Julia was responsible for all aspects of office and financial administration for one of the largest synagogues in Chicago. For full bios on all PILI staff members, please visit our website.

Helen Brach Foundation Renews Grant to PILI for 2011
The Helen Brach Foundation has renewed its support for PILI for the coming year. Contributions from this foundation go directly to our Law Student Internship Program, making it possible for two more law students to participate in summer Internships at public interest agencies in Illinois. We are grateful to the Helen Brach Foundation for its steadfast support of PILI's work and mission.

Save the Date for our 2011 Annual Awards Luncheon
The 2011 PILI Annual Awards Luncheon will be held again this year at the Renaissance Downtown Chicago Hotel on **Thursday, December 1st**. Each year PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon gathers more than 450 members of the legal community to celebrate the best aspects of the profession. It is a forum to recognize those

In This Issue

PILI News

PILI Internship & Fellowship Programs

PILI Alumni Program

PILI Pro Bono Initiative Program

PILI Helpful Links

about us

programs

participating agencies

events

publications

news

donate

contact us

Additional Helpful Links

IllinoisProBono.org

More About the New IL Supreme Court Pro Bono Reporting Requirement

New Illinois Supreme Court Rule Permits Retired, Inactive and Corporate Attorneys to Perform Pro Bono Work

Other Useful Links

PILI & ILAO Pro Bono Matching System

Pro Bono Matching System Home

Find A Pro Bono Mentor

Become A Pro Bono Mentor

performing remarkable public interest and pro bono work, featuring several awards to acknowledge those whose work epitomizes the ideal of access to justice for all. For more details about this event or for information about sponsorship, including a list of sponsors to date, please visit the Annual Awards Luncheon page on our website.

Pictures from the 2010 Annual Awards Luncheon in December have been posted both to our website and to our Facebook page. If you haven't already, stop by and take a look!

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 2011 PILI Law Student Internship Program Application Period Wrapping Up
With summer fast approaching, most of PILI's Participating Agencies have filled their 2011 PILI Law Student Internship positions. PILI had a very impressive pool of over 375 law students from 74 law schools nationwide applying for an Internship at one of twenty of PILI's Participating Agencies. 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 about our Law Student Internship Program on our website.

Gearing Up for PILI's Summer Educational Series
Every year at the beginning of the summer, PILI hosts a Kick-off Luncheon for its Summer Educational Series for PILI Interns and Fellows. This year, the Kick-off will be held at the Chicago Bar Association on June 1. Plans for the Summer Educational Series are in the works - we're busy confirming topics, lining up speakers, and planning other Intern and Fellow events. Our Educational Series will take place again this year at DePaul University's College of Law; we are thankful to them for once again donating their space to PILI. Check our website for more information, including last summer's Educational Series calendar, and for updates on this year's schedule.

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.

Alumni Named Internship Fundraising Campaign
At PILI's inaugural Alumni Reunion Reception back in September, we launched a campaign to create at least one additional summer Internship experience funded entirely with the support of alumni of its Internship and Fellowship Programs. Our initial fundraising goal is $5,500 for the PILI Alumni Internship Fund, which will at once provide a law student with an unparalleled service and educational opportunity, and the residents of Illinois with an additional 400 hours of legal service. Won't you consider making a donation to provide a law student with this valuable public interest law opportunity and generate an additional 400 hours of legal assistance for Illinois' poor and underrepresented? For more information about the Alumni Named Internship or to make a donation, visit our website.

Alumni Spotlight: 1979 Fellow Jody Adler
Jody Adler never thought of going to law school and becoming a

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!

Subscribe here or forward this newsletter so that others can subscribe.

Join Our Mailing List!

lawyer. But in her work as a community organizer on landlord tenant issues in the 1970s, she often found herself accompanying tenants to housing court to complain about living conditions in their buildings. Going up against the lawyers of their landlords or against the City Corporation Counsel, the tenants rarely had lawyers of their own. "Every month, I sat in housing court with tenants who wanted to testify about the building conditions in their apartments," says Adler. "Every month, I saw attorneys for landlords who owned many multi-unit buildings get continuances to correct building code violations. Sitting there, I realized the power of a law degree and decided to apply to law school." *Click here to read more*.

Alumni Spotlight: 1995 Fellow LaShonda Hunt
Sixteen years into her career as a lawyer, LaShonda Hunt has been an inspiration to her fellow PILI Alumni, to her colleagues, and to her community. After graduating from the University of Michigan Law School in 1995, Hunt worked as a PILI Fellow at Legal Assistance Foundation representing clients at their Northwest office who sought orders of protection, and at unemployment compensation hearings and eviction proceedings. Now working in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Hunt believes that the skills and experiences she gained as a PILI Fellow still impact her work today. *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.

Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable Scheduled for April 21
PILI hosts a semi-annual Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable Series to bring together corporate pro bono leaders from around Illinois, providing them with an opportunity to network, discuss the unique pro bono challenges facing corporate attorneys and share best practices and strategies for successful corporate pro bono programs. Our next Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable will be **on Thursday, April 21** from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. at Accenture LLP. Corporate pro bono leaders are invited to participate in person or by phone. Lunch will be provided for those attending in person. Registration is required; click here to view the Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable agenda and registration information.

PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception: *Celebrating Pro Bono* Coming Up on June 15
PILI's Pro Bono Reception is our annual opportunity to spotlight our community's pro bono relationships and successes and the work of PILI's Pro Bono Initiative. This reception includes informal conversation, networking, appetizers and refreshments. Over 250 pro bono advocates typically attend the reception, including law firm and corporate attorneys, paralegals and legal secretaries, the current class of PILI Interns and Fellows, PILI Alumni and representatives from law schools and public interest law organizations from across the state of Illinois. PILI's 2011 *Celebrating Pro Bono* Reception will be held on **Wednesday, June 15** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at The Ivy Room at Tree Studios, located at 12 East Ohio St (Ohio & State). For more about the event, including information about sponsorship opportunities, visit our website.

April 10-16 is National Volunteer Week!
We are grateful for the law firms and lawyers whose valuable pro bono contributions make equal access to justice a reality for countless low-income and disenfranchised individuals and families who would otherwise be denied. Thank you!

Pro Bono Spotlight: Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

CVLS was founded in 1964 by a handful of young attorneys who wanted to donate legal services to low-income Chicagoans. They recruited friends and worked out of church basements, advising, counseling and, eventually representing clients who came to see them in these evening and weekend neighborhood legal aid clinics. When CVLS incorporated as a not-for-profit and obtained tax-exempt status in the early 1970s, it added a small staff component to support volunteers in their pro bono work. Today CVLS' mission remains the same: To coordinate, promote and support the involvement of the legal community in the voluntary pro bono representation of individual clients from the ranks of the Chicago area's poor and working poor. Last year, CVLS' 3,000 volunteers helped more than 18,000 clients-for free. Most of their clients are minority. Many are disabled. All are low-income. *Click here to read more.*

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
321 North Clark Street, 28th Floor
Chicago, IL 60654
312-832-5127 | pili@pili-law.org | www.pili-law.org

Forward email

SafeUnsubscribe℠

Trusted Email from Constant Contact
Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to sheller-ogden@pili.org by mbergmann@pili-law.org |
Update Profile/Email Address | Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy.

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) | 321 North Clark Street | 28th Floor | Chicago | IL | 60654