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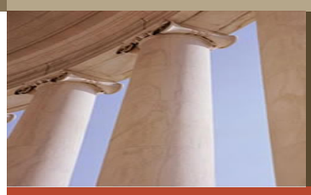
PILI Public Interest Law Initiative®

May/June 2011 | Issue: 14



# 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's a lot going on at PILI these days. Our Annual Pro Bono Reception: *Celebrating Pro Bono* is just around the corner and will feature our Pro Bono Recognition Roster. In addition, we've finalized our Summer Educational Programs for PILI Interns and Fellows, we have information on our Pro Bono Matching System and we have several spotlights to share. And, we've just released our FY2010 Annual Report.

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

## 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

## PILI News

**Annual Pro Bono Reception: *Celebrating Pro Bono* on June 15**

Admissions are on sale now for PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception on June 15 at The Ivy Room at Tree Studios. This event is PILI's annual opportunity to recognize the important pro bono work that is occurring in our legal community and to celebrate our valuable pro bono relationships. With attendees from across the legal community, including this summer's class of PILI Interns and Fellows, we will enjoy appetizers and refreshments, conversation and networking, a brief program, and the unveiling of our 2011 Pro Bono Recognition Roster. Purchase your admission now on our website, or click here for more information about our event sponsors, whose support of PILI and our Pro Bono Initiative helps promote, enhance and expand pro bono in Illinois.

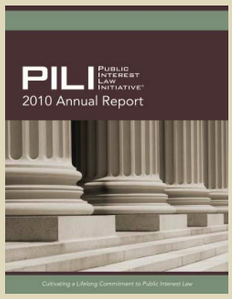
**PILI's 2011 Law Firm and Corporate Legal Department Pro Bono Recognition Roster**

PILI's Pro Bono Recognition Roster acknowledges the noteworthy pro bono contributions of law firms and corporate legal departments throughout the state of Illinois. Our 2011 Roster will be unveiled at our Annual Pro Bono Reception on June 15. To learn more about requirements for inclusion on PILI's 2011 Pro Bono Recognition Roster, please visit our website at www.pili-

law.org/probonorecognitionroster.htm. The deadline to apply is **tomorrow, May 24**. Call or e-mail Michael Bergmann, PILI's Executive Director, at 312-832-5129 with any questions.

**FY2010 Annual Report Now Available**

PILI is pleased to announce that our FY2010 Annual Report is now available. You can view a PDF version on our website or request a print copy in the mail by calling 312-832-5127 or by sending us an e-mail. PILI is thankful for a successful 2010 and for all the firms, corporations, foundations and individuals whose ongoing support enables us to pursue our mission to cultivate a lifelong commitment to public interest law at every stage in the life cycle of a legal career.




**PILI Receives Grant from the Union League Civic & Arts Foundation**

The Union League Civic & Arts Foundation, a longtime supporter of PILI's work, has renewed its support for PILI again this year. The $10,000 grant will go toward our Internship Program, making it possible for two more Interns to participate in PILI's summer program, increasing capacity at our Participating Agencies and expanding access to legal services for low-income Illinoisans. To learn more about the Union League Civic & Arts Foundation, visit their website at www.civicandarts.org. PILI thanks the Union League Civic & Arts Foundation for its support!

**Illinois Bar Foundation Increases Support to PILI's Pro Bono Initiative**

The Illinois Bar Foundation has increased its support of PILI to $20,000 this year, with the entirety of this grant award going toward PILI's Pro Bono Initiative Program. Through this program, PILI enhances the scope and quantity of pro bono work in Illinois for those who lack access to justice. We are thankful to the Illinois Bar Foundation for their ongoing support of this program!

**Chicago Bar Foundation Renews Support for PILI**

PILI also thanks the Chicago Bar Foundation for renewing its support for PILI this year with a $10,000 grant to our Internship Program. These funds will directly support two summer Interns.

# 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.*

**2011 PILI Summer Educational Program Schedule is Announced**

Each summer, as part of our 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 2011 Summer Educational Series will launch with the Kick-off Luncheon on Wednesday, June 1st at which Honorable Edmond E. Chang, United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois and a 1994 PILI Fellow will address this year's class of PILI Interns and Fellows. Read more on our website at www.pili-law.org/summereducationalprogram.htm.

**Summer Internship and Fellowship Program Update**

Thirty-six Interns and 33 Fellows from around the country will take part in PILI's Summer Programs this year. They will be working at our Participating Agencies across the Chicagoland area. Last year's Interns and Fellows worked a combined 26,000 hours providing direct client service, staffing legal clinics, representing clients in court, performing policy and case research and more, and the substantive law topics on which they focused covered a range of public interest concerns and included immigration law, family law, disability law, health law, public benefits, foreclosure, discrimination and civil rights. PILI looks forward to seeing what our 2011 Interns and

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For Senior/Retired Attorneys

For Government Attorneys

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Fellows will accomplish over the next 3 months!

**PILI's 2011 Named Internships**
In addition to the dozens of law student Interns that PILI is able to fund out of its general fundraising efforts with law firms, foundations, individuals and corporations, PILI also is able to designate a number of Named and Honorary Interns each year. These Named and Honorary Internships are made possible thanks to special funding commitments from individual and organizational champions for public interest law. PILI is proud to have 9 Named Interns for the summer of 2011. To see a list of our 2011 Named and Honorary Internships, please visit our website at www.pili-law.org/2011namedinternships.htm.

## 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: Update Your Address with PILI!**
Are you a PILI Alum? Do we have your most current email and physical mailing address? Are you sure? PILI's Alumni Program has some new programming and events coming down the pipe, including our Second Annual PILI Alumni Reunion Reception this fall, and we want to make sure you are in the know. Send us an e-mail or give us a call today at 312-832-5127. Thank you!

**Alumni Spotlight: Maria Wjolten, 1987 Fellow**
Maria Woltjen's commitment to working in public interest law began before she ever heard of PILI. Raised in a family steeped in the heritage of the Catholic Worker tradition, she remembers her father telling stories of going after discriminatory real estate agencies in his job at the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities. The summer after graduating from law school, Woltjen served as a PILI Fellow at the Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, hosted by Coffield Ungaretti Harris & Slavin, the firm where she had been hired as a Litigation Associate. Woltjen's PILI Fellowship served as her introduction to the public interest law community in Chicago. *Click here to read more.*

**Alumni Spotlight: Holly Snow, 2008 Intern**

For Holly Snow, her connection with the Legal Assistance Foundation has extended far beyond the fall of 2008, when she worked as a PILI Intern in their Home Ownership Preservation Project (HOPP) doing client intake, conducting legal research, reviewing discovery documents, drafting memos, motions, and letters and going to court to argue motions on behalf of her clients. In fact, Snow continued working in HOPP until December of 2009, and now as an Associate in the corporate debt finance group at Paul Hastings LLP and a Pro Bono Coordinator for the firm, she continues to serve as an advocate for LAF, encouraging the firm to take pro bono matters for them and for other agencies. She also serves on LAF's Young Professionals Board and acts as the Board's Co-Liaison to LAF. *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.*

**Online Pro Bono Case Pairing and Mentor Matching System - Mentors Needed!**

Pro bono advocates across the state of Illinois have a resource to help them serve their pro bono clients. In partnership with Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO), PILI has developed the Pro Bono Case Pairing and Mentor Matching System, available at www.IllinoisProBono.org. New pro bono practitioners can use the tool to be matched with more experienced pro bono practitioners who are willing to serve as mentors, and pro bono volunteers can use the system to connect with other pro bono volunteers to share a specific pro bono case or matter. Registration is free and the system is available to attorneys, law students, paralegals and other legal professionals who register on the website. Check it out today!

**Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable**

Accenture hosted PILI's 2011 Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable on Thursday, April 21, 2011. Corporate pro bono leaders from around the state discussed the unique pro bono challenges facing corporate attorneys and shared best practices and strategies for successful corporate pro bono programs. More Pro Bono Initiative events are in the works and will be announced in the coming months. Stay tuned!

**Kirkland & Ellis LLP Pro Bono Program Recognized**

PILI recently nominated the Kirkland & Ellis Pro Bono Program for the Illinois State Bar Association's McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award and we are delighted to announce that Kirkland will be honored for their efforts. The ISBA McAndrews Award will be presented to Kirkland & Ellis at the ISBA Annual Meeting in Lake Geneva, WI on June 17th. Visit PILI's Spotlight Archives to read an earlier spotlight of the Kirkland & Ellis Pro Bono Program at www.pili-law.org/probonospotlightarchives.htm.

**Pro Bono Spotlight: Exelon**

Chicago-based Exelon Corporation, one of the nation's largest electric and gas utilities, prides itself on its commitment to employee volunteer service - a value exemplified by the company's legal department. Exelon Legal has a longstanding tradition of providing pro bono legal services to the communities in which the company operates. In 2010 alone, 89 members of the legal staff, including 49 attorneys, performed more than 1,410 hours of pro bono service - the equivalent of 35 full workweeks and a 10% increase over 2009. As a result, PILI named Exelon to its 2010 Pro Bono Recognition Roster, and the National Immigrant Justice Center awarded Exelon the 2010 Midwest Light of Human Rights Corporate Award. *Click here to read more*.

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