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PILI Public Interest Law Initiative

July/August 2012 | Issue: 21

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

Greetings!

Since our founding 35 years ago 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.

Summer is always a busy time at PILI, and this summer is no exception with one of our largest classes of Interns & Fellows ever. Our Summer Educational Series is still going strong, but we are already looking ahead to the fall with a full line-up of Pro Bono Initiative events and an Alumni Reunion Reception. We know we aren't the only ones who have been busy - several PILIs and friends of PILI have been making headlines lately, including 2 recent Alumni who received post-graduate public interest law fellowships in Chicago. And as always, we have new Pro Bono and Alumni Spotlights to share as well!

This and more below - we hope you find this e-newsletter informative, and we appreciate your involvement in and support of PILI.

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

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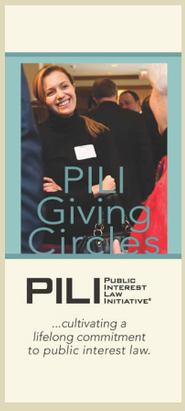
PILI News

Help PILI Close the Fiscal Year on a Strong Note!
PILI's 2012 fiscal year closes on August 31. This has been a year of incredible growth for PILI, with a substantial increase in Interns and Fellows, a new Alumni Network Leadership Council, and several new and innovative projects launched for our Pro Bono Initiative. We are committed to continuing to grow our programs to better meet the legal needs of people living in poverty, and we hope that you will join us in this effort by making a gift to PILI today. This summer we are also introducing "PILI Giving Circles," a new way to give to PILI. Contact PILI Executive Director Michael Bergmann to learn more about this exciting new opportunity.



PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception a Huge Success

PILI wishes to thank all of our sponsors, guests and volunteers who made our June 20th Annual Pro Bono Reception a success! With 225 people in attendance from across the state and around the world, we unveiled our 2012 Pro Bono Recognition Roster to honor Illinois law firms and corporate legal departments with exceptional pro bono programs. The event raised $64,000 for PILI's Pro Bono Initiative Program. View the event photo album online, or click here to see a list of our generous sponsors.

PILI In The News
PILI programs and events have been making headlines this last month: the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin ran a feature on PILI's 2012 Internship Program on June 13th, and ran another feature on June 21st about our Annual Pro Bono Reception. In addition to this, several PILI Alumni, Board Members, and friends of PILI have made headlines too for their impressive pro bono and professional accomplishments. Visit our website to catch up on all of the latest PILIs In The News! And, be sure to send us a tip if you know of any newsworthy PILIs that we may have missed.

Call for Nominations: PILI's Annual Awards
Nominations are now open for PILI's 2012 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 their outstanding contributions of public interest and/or pro bono work
- The **Pro Bono Initiative Award** acknowledges a law firm or corporate legal department for its significant pro bono work in the community

You are welcome to submit nominations for yourself or for others. Click here for the nomination form, or visit our website for more information about the awards, the nomination process, and a list of past awardees. The nomination period will close on September 5, and awards will be presented at PILI's 35th Anniversary Annual Awards Luncheon on November 29th.

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.

Record Growth in Internship & Fellowship Programs This Year
PILI's 2012 Intern and Fellow class made a huge jump from 79 last year to 128 this year! Our 10 school-year Interns, 48 summer Interns, and 70 Fellows combine to form one of the largest PILI classes. All together, this year's PILIs are providing 42,200 hours of service directly to or on behalf of low-income and underrepresented clients of the 56 different legal service agencies where they work.

2012 PILI Interns Goli Ramini, Anita Gupta, and Chevon Chatman

PILI's Summer Educational Series Wraps Up

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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Join Our Mailing List!

PILI hosts a weekly educational seminar series for our Interns & Fellows every summer. This summer's program has featured several seminars on substantive law topics related to public interest law, like disability law, mortgage foreclosure, and domestic violence, as well as seminars on career development issues, like how to integrate pro bono into your legal career. We have just 2 seminars left in the 2012 season: An Update on the Affordable Care Act on August 1st, and an Environmental Law Update on August 7th. In addition to PILI Interns & Fellows, all law student interns in the Chicago area are invited to attend our seminars, as are any prospective PILI Interns & Fellows. Questions? Get in touch with us! We hope to see you there!

A First for PILI: Webcasting
Thanks to the help of our friends at Illinois Legal Aid Online, PILI has for the first time in our history been able to webcast some of our summer educational seminars! This has been an important goal of ours this year because of the increase in PILI Fellows serving outside of Chicago and event out of state. Our final webcast of the summer will be our seminar on the Affordable Care Act on August 1st. Click here and login to view the webinar. All PILI webcasts will be available in the vast ILAO archives later on this year.

Applications for 2012-2013 School-Year PILI Internships
PILI offers a limited number of fall Internships for second and third-year law students attending law school in the Chicago area. School-year Interns work 200 hours during the spring or fall semester at one of our Participating Agencies. The application period will open soon for fall Internships. Check our website to learn more about how to apply. For Spring 2013 PILI Internships, the application period will open on November 1st.

PILI Alumni Network

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 our Alumni Network.

Save the date: PILI Alumni Reunion Reception, October 10
Please join us on Wednesday, October 10 for the 3rd annual PILI Alumni Reunion Reception at the Haymarket Brewpub, 737 West Randolph. Tickets will be on sale soon! Visit our website for more information.

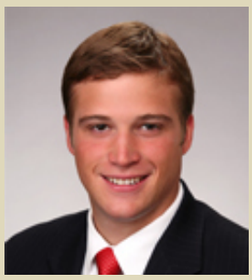
PILI Alumni Awarded Prestigious Post-Graduate Fellowships
2011 PILI Intern Alumni Margaret Kuzma and Cynthia Cornelius have each been awarded prestigious post-graduate public interest law fellowships. Margaret, a graduate of DePaul University School of Law, has received a Skadden Fellowship to work at LAF Chicago providing direct representation to National Guard service members and their families during and after deployments on matters of guardianship, predatory lending, housing, employment and family law. Cynthia, from Loyola University School of Law, received an Equal Justice Works Fellowship to work at Cabrini Green Legal Aid, where she will train a corps of volunteer law students to expand the reach of CGLA's Criminal Expungement Program to target Chicago's homeless community. Both Margaret and Cynthia did their PILI Internships last summer at the agencies where they will soon begin their respective Fellowships. Congratulations to them both as they continue their innovative and needed work!

PILI Alumni CLE Program Held on July 12

Earlier this month, PILI hosted a CLE program and networking reception for our Alumni on the topic of "Working with Diverse Client Populations." A panel addressed mental health and racial issues surrounding attorney-client relationships as well as strategies to better serve clients from diverse

backgrounds. PILI thanks Jenner & Block LLP for hosting this event!

Alumni Spotlight: Matthew Jenkins, 2005 PILI Intern



Matt Jenkins is an associate at Corboy & Demitrio practicing personal injury law. In his as-yet short career, Matt has already amassed an impressive list of awards for his professional and pro bono accomplishments, the most recent of which was the 2012 "Rising Star Award" from the Young Lawyers Section of the Chicago Bar Association. Matt sits on the Executive Committee of the CBA's Young Lawyers Section, he is co-chair of the Civil Rights and Criminal Law Committee of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, and he serve as President of the Board of Directors for CDEL, the Center for Disability and Elder Law. Matt's leadership in community service and pro bono didn't happen by accident. A PILI Intern in the summer of 2005, Matt served at LAF (the Legal Assistance Foundation), working on bankruptcy and elder abuse issues. *Click here to read more.*

Alumni Spotlight: Sasha Reyes, 2000 PILI Fellow

Sasha Reyes was a PILI Fellow in the summer of 2000 at the Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC). Her previous work experience during law school had been with state and federal governments and at a private law firm, but while in law school at Indiana University, Sasha also earned an MS in environmental science and was very focused on environmental law. "This position was a really great fit for me," she says. "Working at ELPC provided experience in precisely the substantive area I was interested in." ELPC is involved in a range of environmental issues, including traditional environmental topics relating to air quality, water resources, and species protection, as well as policy issues with environmental implications such as transportation, smart growth, and energy policy. During her PILI Fellowship, Sasha worked on projects assessing the environmental impacts of a proposed highway expansion project under the National Environmental Policy Act and protections for endangered species under Illinois law. *Click here to read more.*

PILI Pro Bono Initiative Program

Through our 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 our Pro Bono Initiative Program.

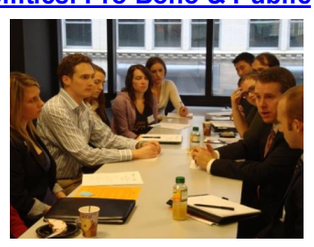
Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Pro Bono Initiative Events!

PILI's Pro Bono Initiative has several events planned for the remainder of 2012, including:

September 12: PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono

PILI organizes this annual forum, held at the Chicago Bar Association, to bring together pro bono leaders from law firms, corporations, legal aid agencies and law schools from around the state to discuss timely pro bono issues and share pro bono best practices. This year, Cheryl Zalenski, ABA Director of the Center on Pro Bono and John Levi, Chair of the Legal Services Corporation, will sit on a panel discussing the future of pro bono.

September 29: Explore the Possibilities: Pro Bono & Public Interest Law Opportunities



Held every fall, this program is for Chicago area law students interested in learning more about placements as volunteers, interns, externs, or fellows at public interest law organizations. It will be held from 8:45 a.m. until noon at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

November 13: Law Firm Pro Bono Roundtable

A new addition to PILI's Pro Bono Roundtable Series, the Law Firm Pro Bono Roundtable brings together law firm pro bono leaders from around Illinois to discuss the pro bono

opportunities and challenges facing law firms and to share best practices and strategies for successful programs. This roundtable will be hosted by Drinker Biddle & Reath.

Click on the links or visit our Pro Bono Initiative Events page to learn more about any of these upcoming programs. Registration information will be available soon - we hope you will join us!

Pro Bono Spotlight: Legal Aid Society

In this edition of our newsletter, PILI is pleased to spotlight the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services (formerly the Legal Aid Bureau). LAS has hosted PILI Interns and Fellows for many years, and their Pro Bono Project offers a wide range of opportunities for law students and lawyers to get involved.

Grace Newgard, Pro Bono Coordinator at LAS

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) of Metropolitan Family Services was one of the first organizations in the nation to provide legal services for the poor. Since 1886 it has been a pioneer in providing "justice for all," regardless of ability to pay, and has served metropolitan Chicago for over 125 years. LAS helped pioneer the concept of pro bono work, partnering with law firms and law schools early in its history to expand resources for clients and engage others in this important cause. The Legal Aid Society furthers its mission of improving access to justice for low-income clients through its Pro Bono Project. The Project develops partnerships with local bar groups, law firms, courthouses, law schools, and other non-profits to increase the delivery of pro bono services. *Click here to read more.*

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