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PILI Public Interest Law Initiative

March/April 2012 | Issue: 19

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.

This has been a busy time at PILI as we prepare for upcoming Pro Bono Initiative programming, for the fast-approaching summer programs for our 2012 Interns & Fellows, and for our Annual Pro Bono Reception in June. There is also a lot going on for PILI Alumni - we have exciting new ways for you to get involved with PILI and two inspiring new Alumni spotlights!

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

PILI News

Save the Date for PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception - *Celebrating Pro Bono*

On June 20, PILI will host our Annual Pro Bono Reception from 5:30-7:30 pm at The Ivy Room at Tree Studios, 12 East Ohio Street. The Annual Pro Bono Reception is PILI's opportunity to spotlight the community's pro bono relationships and successes and also the work of PILI's Pro Bono Initiative Program. This Reception features appetizers and refreshments, conversation and networking, a brief program, and the unveiling of our 2012 Pro Bono Recognition Roster. Visit our website to learn more, or contact us for information about sponsorship opportunities. We hope to see you there!

The Helen Brach Foundation Renews Grant to PILI

PILI is pleased to announce that the Helen Brach Foundation has decided to renew its support to PILI in the form of a $10,000 grant. This grant money will go directly to two summer 2012 PILI Interns. The Helen Brach Foundation supports a broad range of programs that aim to prevent cruelty to children and animals, and PILI Interns funded through the Foundation work directly with or on behalf of children and disabled people whose positions are made even more vulnerable because of poverty. PILI thanks the Helen Brach

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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

Foundation for their continued support!

Union League Civic & Arts Foundation Renews PILI Support
The Union League Civic & Arts Foundation will again this year grant PILI $10,000 in support of two PILI Interns. Given the Foundation's mission to develop and promote programs for children and young adults in the Chicago area, their funding will be used to support PILI Interns working with or on behalf of children and youth. PILI is grateful to the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation for their ongoing support of this program!

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 2012 PILI Law Student Internship Program Application Period Wrapping Up
With summer fast approaching, most of PILI's Participating Agencies have filled their 2012 PILI Law Student Internship positions. PILI had an impressive pool of over 324 law students from 64 law schools nationwide applying for Internships at one of twenty-three agencies. PILI funds these 400-hour Internships for first and second-year law students 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.

PILI's Summer Educational Series
We are busy confirming speakers and planning topics and events for the 2012 PILI Intern & Fellow Summer Educational Series. Our Educational Series will again take place this year at DePaul University College of Law and our Kick-off Luncheon will take place at the Chicago Bar Association on June 5. We are thankful to DePaul and to the Chicago Bar Association for donating their space once again. Check our website for more information and for updates on this year's schedule.

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.

PILI Launches Alumni Network Leadership Council, Names Officers

The PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council officially launched at a meeting of PILI Alumni on March 16. The Leadership Council will be made up of up to 20 members of the PILI Alumni Community and will oversee and lead the PILI Alumni Network. The Leadership Council also has Alumni Teams for Programs, Fundraising and Outreach. The following Alumni have been named to officer positions within the Leadership Council:

Chair: Justin Heather, *Korey Cotter Heather & Richardson*
Vice-Chair: Elizabeth P. Lewis, *McDermott Will & Emery*
Liaison to PILI Board of Directors: Reena Bajowala, *Jenner & Block*
Liaison to the Internship, Fellowship & Alumni Programs Committee of the PILI Board: Chuck Golbert, *Cook County Public Guardian*

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!

Program Planning Team Leader: David Scriven-Young, *Peckar & Abramson*
Fundraising Team Leader: Katie Diebert, *Kirkland & Ellis*
Outreach Team Leader: John Thurmond, *Lateral Link*

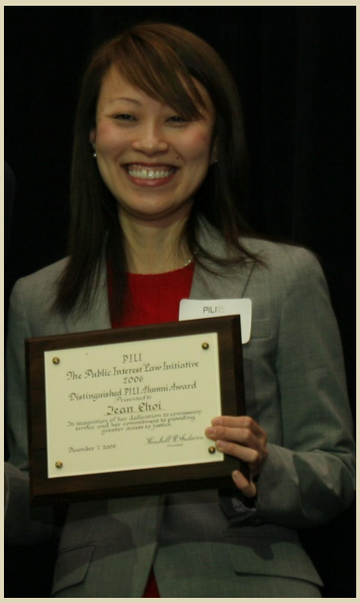
We are still recruiting additional Alumni to serve on the Council and/or on one of the teams. If you are interested in joining the PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council, get in touch with us! Contact PILI Program Manager Sheila Simhan by e-mail at 312-832-5128 for more information.

Calling All Alumni - PILI Intern & Fellow Pairing Program

PILI is looking for Alumni to participate in the Intern and Fellow Pairing Program. This program pairs 2012 Interns & Fellows with either a PILI Board member or with a member of the PILI Alumni community, providing them with valuable insights into the Illinois legal community, practice areas, career strategies, or initial networking inroads. If you are interested in participating, please click here for more information and to complete a brief survey (less than 5 minutes) to assist us in making a meaningful match between you and an Intern or Fellow.

Alumni Spotlight: Jean Choi, 1992 PILI Intern

Twenty years ago in the summer of 1992, Jean Choi, then a rising 2L at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, began her PILI Internship at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. It was an experience that impacted her life in more ways than she could have anticipated. PILI has been placing Interns at the Chicago Lawyer's Committee since our founding 35 years ago. The agency works on a broad range of legal issues related to social justice, and Jean's work in the summer of 1992 was accordingly diverse and extensive. "It was my first real experience working as a lawyer," says Jean. "I got to work with actual clients - for me it was very exciting." Many of the clients with whom Jean worked were victims of employment discrimination. Other clients came through the Lawyers' Committee's Fair Housing Project, which Jean worked on with Betsy Schuman-Moore, a 1981 PILI Intern Alum who still supervises PILI Interns at the Lawyers' Committee today. Jean also worked with Maria Woltjen, a 1987 PILI Fellow Alum, on juvenile justice issues related to transfer hearings. At the time of Jean's Internship, the Chicago Lawyers' Committee's Executive Director was Roslyn Lieb; Roz would later go on to become the Executive Director of PILI until her retirement in 2004. *Click here to read the rest of Jean's spotlight*.



Jean receiving her PILI Alumni Award in 2006

Alumni Spotlight: David Scriven-Young, 2003 PILI Fellow

David Scriven-Young is a recognized leader in environmental law in Illinois and a strong advocate for the Great Lakes and other causes. He traces the roots of his pro bono work on environmental issues back to 2003 when, having just graduated *summa cum laude* from DePaul University College of Law, he was sponsored by Jenner & Block LLP to serve as a PILI Fellow at the Lake Michigan Federation (now called Alliance for the Great Lakes). His Fellowship gave him experience in the field of environmental law and valuable connections with other attorneys and legal professionals also committed to protecting the environment. In addition to conducting legal research on water quality and invasive species issues, David says the highlight of his Fellowship was drafting an *amicus* brief for a Michigan Supreme

Court case. "The case was filed by another nonprofit citizens group," explains David. "They sought to declare invalid a permit issued by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and to enjoin a sand mining operation that would impact a critical dune area." David worked closely with the agency's in-house counsel, which helped him understand both the demands placed on those working in that capacity, and also nonprofit citizen groups' need for pro bono legal services. *Click here to read the rest of David's spotlight.*

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.

Save the Date: Law School & Agency Pro Bono Roundtable - Tuesday, May 29

This year, PILI is hosting a joint Legal Service Agency and Law School Roundtable on Tuesday, May 29, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. at McDermott Will & Emery LLP. This is a two-part program that will bring together pro bono leaders from Illinois law schools and legal service agencies to discuss public interest law issues and opportunities, as well as potential areas for collaboration. Registration will be open soon. Contact PILI Program Manager Sheila Simhan at 312-832-5129 or by e-mail for more information. PILI thanks McDermott Will & Emery for hosting this event.

PILI's 2012 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 2012 Recognition Roster will be unveiled at our Annual Pro Bono Reception on June 20. To learn more about requirements for inclusion on PILI's 2012 Pro Bono Recognition Roster, please visit our website. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 20. Call or e-mail Sheila Simhan, PILI's Program Manager, at 312-832-5128 with any questions.

Pro Bono Committees Launched in 2 Illinois Judicial Circuits

In coordination with Prairie State Legal Services and Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, PILI has assisted in the development and launch of two pilot Pro Bono Committees in the 3rd and 14th Judicial Circuits to promote and encourage pro bono in those communities. Members of the judiciary as well as pro bono leaders from local law firms, corporations, bar associations, and public interest law organizations have been recruited to participate in the committees. PILI's Executive Director Michael Bergmann and Program Manager Sheila Simhan made a trip to the 14th Circuit in Rock Island to meet with members of the newly formed Committee there in late February. The Committee discussed the landscape of pro bono in their circuit, their priorities and goals moving forward, and their needs for further research and study. The 3rd Circuit Committee began meeting in the late fall of last year. They have already begun identifying pro bono opportunities within their circuit, and have created a brochure highlighting available pro bono resources. PILI congratulates the 3rd and 14th Circuits on launching these Pro Bono Committees, and we hope they will be models for the development of Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees across the state.

Pro Bono Case Pairing & Mentor Matching System Has a New Brochure

The Pro Bono Case Pairing & Mentor Matching System is a joint project between PILI and Illinois Legal Aid Online to connect pro bono volunteers with one another as mentor/mentees or case partners, making pro bono work more accessible, efficient and effective for pro bono attorneys and the clients they serve. View

the new brochure on our website or visit www.illinoisprobono.org to sign up.

PILI Hosts Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable

On March 14, PILI hosted a Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable, bringing together corporate pro bono leaders from across the state to discuss strategies, share best practices, and exchange ideas about how to build strong pro bono programs for corporate legal departments. The 19 attendees from 8 Illinois corporations and 6 legal service agencies discussed challenges and opportunities available to corporate attorneys interested in pro bono work. The Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable is an annual event and is part of PILI's larger Roundtable Series, with pro bono programming for firms, corporations, law schools and legal service agencies.

Pro Bono Initiative Spotlight: Capstone Advisory Group

Joel Shames is a Director of Litigation at the Chicago office of Capstone Advisory Group, a business consulting firm with offices across the Americas. He specializes in forensic accounting, litigation support, and alternative dispute resolution for Capstone's clients. But Joel knows that there is a need for his skill set and experience beyond Capstone's own clients. He is part of a growing group of Capstone professionals interested in doing pro bono work, and a recent pro bono project he undertook with LAF, the Legal Assistance Foundation, powerfully exhibits the capacity of Joel and his colleagues at Capstone to make a difference in the lives of low-income people in need. *Click here to read more.*

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