Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

PILI Public Interest Law Initiative

May/June 2012 | Issue: 20

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.

Our Annual Pro Bono Reception is coming up on June 20, and we hope you will join us! Coming up before that on the PILI calendar we have our Law School and Agency Roundtable next week, and our Summer Internship and Fellowship Programs which officially kick off on June 5! There is good news to report about grants recently awarded to PILI, and we've got some inspiring new Alumni and Pro Bono Spotlights 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

PILI News

PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception: June 20

You're invited! Please join us for PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception on Wednesday, June 20. This event is PILI's annual opportunity to recognize the important pro bono work taking place in our legal community and to celebrate our pro bono partnerships. 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 2012 Pro Bono Recognition Roster. The event will again be held at The Ivy Room at Tree Studios, 12 East Ohio street, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Purchase your tickets 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 across Illinois.

Polk Bros. Foundation Awards PILI $90,000 Over Two Years

PILI is thrilled to announce that the Polk Bros. Foundation has approved a $90,000, two-year grant in support of our Law Student Internship Program. The Polk Bros. Foundation has long been a major supporter of this program, making it possible for more law students to spend their summers interning at legal service agencies,

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

building their skills, developing their networks, and making a difference in the lives of agency clients. This two-year award is especially appreciated during a time when PILI seeks to grow the Internship Program to meet the needs of the agencies participating in this program. We are thankful to the Polk Bros. Foundation for their generous support!

The Chicago Bar Foundation Increases Grant Award to PILI
The Chicago Bar Foundation has awarded PILI a $22,000 grant in support of our Law Student Internship Program. Specifically, these funds will support both summer and school-year Interns, which agencies participating in our Internship Program have identified as a particular area of need in our recent needs assessment study. PILI thanks the CBF for their generous and increased support this year!

The Illinois Bar Foundation Renews Support to PILI's Pro Bono Initiative
PILI has received a grant award from the Illinois Bar Foundation in the amount of $15,000. Support from the IBF goes to PILI's Pro Bono Initiative Program, and specifically targets efforts to expand and enhance pro bono outside of Cook County and across the state of Illinois. We have written about several of our new state-wide endeavors in earlier newsletters this year, like the Pro Bono Case Pairing and Mentor Matching System, and the Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees. Thanks to the IBF for their continued support!

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.

Get Ready for the Intern & Fellow Summer Educational Series

Forty-six Interns and nearly 60 Fellows will soon begin their work at dozens of legal service agencies in Chicago and across Illinois. To supplement their work experience, PILI organizes a Summer Educational Series with weekly seminars on substantive legal topics related to public interest law as well as career development issues. The Summer Educational Series begins with our Kick-off Luncheon on June 5, hosted by the Chicago Bar Association. At this luncheon, a panel comprised of PILI Alumni will explore "Getting the Most Out of Your Internships and Fellowships." Visit our website to RSVP for the kick-off luncheon now and to view the full summer schedule. Upcoming topics include mortgage foreclosure, domestic violence, an update on the Affordable Care Act, and much more.

Record Numbers Sign up for Advising Program
PILI offers an optional Advising Program to our summer Interns, which matches Interns with advisors from PILI's Board of Directors or PILI's Alumni Community to provide them with valuable insights into the Chicago pro bono and public interest legal community, practice areas, career strategies, and initial networking inroads. For the first time this summer, PILI has offered the program to Fellows as well, and the result has been a record 60 Interns and Fellows signed up to participate! PILI is hosting a Reception for Interns, Fellows and Advisors on Thursday, June 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Loyola University Chicago School of Law - RSVP now on our website. Thanks to Loyola University School of Law for hosting this event!

Graduate Fellowship Program Information Sessions

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!

Martindale-Hubbell® Connected
View My Group

LinkedIn

Find us on Facebook

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

Join Our Mailing List!

PILI staff has been busy visiting area law firms to talk with summer associates about our Graduate Fellowship Program. Over the years, 25 different Chicago-area law firms have sponsored PILI Fellows at one of up to 56 different legal service agencies across the state, and this summer's nearly 60 Fellows will provide 18,000 hours of quality legal services while also building skills and gaining valuable experience. Is your law firm interested in having PILI present to your summer associates about our Graduate Fellowship Program? Contact Executive Director Michael Bergmann by e-mail or by phone at 312-832-5129.

2012 Named Internships
Each year, several of PILI's Internship Placements are made possible thanks to special funding commitments from individual and organizational champions for public interest law. These Internships are "named" in honor of their funders and support a range of work and service priorities. This year's 13 Named Interns are funded by 9 foundations or individuals. You can view the full list of Named Interns and their funders on our website. Thanks to our Named Internship funders, and congratulations to the Interns named to these special placements.

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.

Leadership Council: PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council and Teams Meet

On April 24, the PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council held its first official meeting, lead by Chair Justin Heather. The Network's Programming, Fundraising, and Outreach Teams are already busy planning upcoming Alumni programs this summer, the Alumni Reunion Reception this fall, and other new Alumni outreach efforts. We still have a few at-large seats open on the Council. If are interested in joining, please get in touch with PILI Program Manager Sheila Simhan by e-mail or by phone at 312-832-5128.

Save the Date: Alumni CLE Program July 12
Each year, PILI organizes an evening program and networking reception for Alumni to help them stay connected to PILI and the public interest law community while also earning CLE credit. This year's program will be on the topic of "Working with Diverse Client Populations," and will be held on July 12 at 5:30 p.m. More information, including information on how to register, will be available soon - check our website for updates. PILI thanks Jenner & Block for hosting this event.

PILI Alumni: Stay In Touch With Us!
Want to stay up-to-date on what's happening with the PILI Alumni Network, and hear about opportunities to get involved with PILI, earn CLE credits, and network with other pro bono and public interest lawyers? Make sure we have your most recent contact information! Click here to update your info with us. You can also stay in touch by liking us on Facebook or by joining our Alumni-only Linkedin group. Thanks!

PILI Alumni Spotlight: Daniel Serrano, 2001 Intern

This is PILI's first "surprise" Alumni spotlight - thanks to Daniel's wife and fellow PILI Intern Alum Yajaira Yepez for nominating him and providing content!

Daniel Serrano is the newly appointed Director for the Commission on Racial & Ethnic Diversity in the Profession for the American Bar Association. An accomplished lawyer, he has worked for the New York City Council and the New York State Assembly as Legislative Counsel, and the New York State Senate as the Director of Public Policy and Counsel to State Senator Bill Perkins (representing Harlem). He managed a high-profile congressional campaign, he co-authored and facilitated the passage of the Emerging Business Enterprise Law, and he helped form the Minority and Women-owned Business (MWBE) Working Group in New York. Daniel is also a distinguished novelist, a marathoner, and an Adjunct Law Professor. But before all of this, back in 2000, Daniel was a PILI Intern, serving low-income individuals and families who were clients at LAF's Northwest Services Office. Daniel's journey to law school and his career path since have been anything but ordinary. His legal work, both during his PILI Internship and since, has often focused on populations like the communities from which he came: low-income immigrant groups with limited English language ability and a lack of access to much-needed legal remedies. *Click here to read more.*

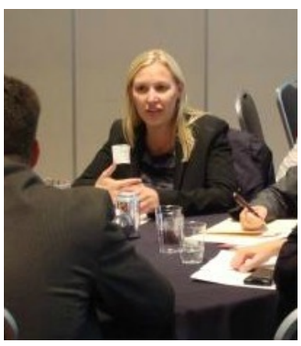
PILI Alumni Spotlight: David Winters, 2002 Fellow

David Winters knows a thing or two about integrating pro bono work into a successful legal career. A partner at Butler Rubin Saltarelli & Boyd LLP, he not only practices commercial and reinsurance litigation and serves as an adjunct law professor at Northwestern University School of Law, but he also regularly takes pro bono cases to help meet the unmet legal needs of the Chicago community. Having received his J.D. in 2002 from Northwestern, David served as a PILI Fellow at Northwestern's Bluhm Legal Clinic, working primarily with victims domestic abuse. Here, he gained direct experience working with clients in very challenging situations. "One of our clients was in an abusive relationship with her spouse," David recounts. "They were separated but she still had to cope with the fear of trying to navigate divorce, child custody, and child support issues in the context of a relationship with a history of abuse." David worked with the client directly to help resolve her legal issues, and he was also able to provide advice and support in navigating the difficult everyday issues she faced as well.
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.

Law School & Agency Pro Bono Roundtable Next Week



Today is the last day to register for PILI's joint Law School & Legal Service Agency Roundtable, which will be held next 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. View the full Roundtable agenda on our website, or click here to register now.

Pro Bono Spotlight: Miller Shakman & Beem LLP
In May of 2012, PILI nominated Miller Shakman & Beem LLP for the Illinois State Bar Association's prestigious John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award under the small firm category. Celebrating its 65th anniversary last year, the firm's attorneys have compiled a public service and pro bono track record that would be impressive for any private firm, but is extraordinary for a firm of only 15 lawyers. PILI is pleased to announce that Miller Shakman & Beem was selected as a recipient of this award, honoring their commitment to pro bono work and leadership in the field. *Click here to read more.*

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

Forward email

SafeUnsubscribe

Trusted Email from Constant Contact FREE
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