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PILI Public Interest Law Initiative

September/October 2012 | Issue: 22

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 summer Internship and Fellowship Programs may have wrapped up, but our Pro Bono Initiative is in full swing - learn about recent and upcoming events for law students and lawyers across the legal profession. This edition of our newsletter also announces award recipients for PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon on November 29, but before that, we're hosting an Alumni Reunion Reception next week on October 10. We have two amazing new Alumni Spotlights to share, and our Pro Bono Spotlight hosted a Dreamers Clinic last month - read all about it!

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
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PILI News

Lee Ann Russo of Jones Day Takes Helm as PILI Announces 2012-13 Grants

PILI's Executive Director with our immediate past and current Board Presidents

Lee Ann Russo, administrative partner for the Chicago office of Jones Day, began a two-year term as President of the PILI Board of Directors at the start of PILI's new fiscal year on September 1st. Lee Ann has been involved with PILI since 2006, and follows James A. Rolfes of Reed Smith LLP, PILI's previous Board President. With the new fiscal year, PILI also announced that it will make $200,000 in grants to 23 public interest law organizations in Chicago, an increase over recent years. These grants will provide stipends for 45 PILI Interns over the 2012-13 academic year and the summer of 2013 through PILI's Law Student Internship Program. *Click here to read more*.

PILI's 2012 Award Recipients Announced

Each year, PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon gathers more than 450 members of the legal community to celebrate the best aspects of the

profession: the remarkable service, dedication, skill, and generosity of extraordinary pro bono and public interest lawyers in Illinois. This year's Luncheon is extra special as PILI will also be celebrating our 35th Anniversary of pursuing our mission to cultivate a lifelong commitment to public interest law. This year's Luncheon, to be held on Thursday, November 29th from 11:30-1:30, and will feature several awards to acknowledge those whose work epitomizes the ideal of access to justice for all. PILI's 2012 award recipients are:

- **Pro Bono Initiative Award:** Deere & Company
- **Distinguished Intern Alumni Award:** Amy Zimmerman, Health & Disability Advocates, 1989 PILI Intern
- **Distinguished Fellow Alumni Award:** Honorable Edmond Chang, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 1994 PILI Fellow
- **Distinguished Public Service Award:** Harvey Grossman, ACLU of Illinois

We hope you will join us for this special celebration and to honor our award recipients. Invitations for the event will be mailed in late October, and individual tickets can also be purchased on our website. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for this event. For more information about the event, including sponsorship and ticket sales, visit our website.

PILI Giving Circles Are an Easy Way to Support PILI for the Long Term

This summer, PILI introduced PILI Giving Circles. Members of PILI Giving Circles commit to a five-year annual gift of a specific amount each year. Commitment levels start at $100 per year, and extend to our Cornerstone Society, a special giving circle where donors set their own pledge amount of $1,000 or more per year. Participating in a giving circle goes farther than a simple donation - it allows us to better anticipate revenue in our budgeting, to better attract new donors, and to better recognize you, our core supporters! We are thankful to the many founding members of PILI's Giving Circles, and we invite you to read more or contact us if you are interested in joining.

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.

PILI Interns and Fellows Complete Summer at Chicago Legal Service Agencies

PILI Interns at LAF this summer

This summer, 47 PILI Interns and 70 PILI Fellows together contributed 39,800 of hours to over 2,500 clients at Illinois legal service agencies. One PILI Intern at Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing told us, "the client interactions and direct negotiations with opposing counsel have been extraordinary opportunities that have allowed me to successfully aid clients and gain hands-on experience in the profession." Said one PILI Fellow, "this was an extremely rewarding experience that has helped to make me a more well-rounded young attorney." Supervisors reported that PILI Interns and Fellows increased the number of clients they are able to serve, increased the quality of their representation, increased their capacity to take on complicated cases, expanded the range of services they were able to provide, and reduced their waiting lists. Congratulations to all of you on completing your Internship or Fellowship, and thank you for your contributions to legal

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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PILI Graduate Fellowship Application Now Online
This year, the PILI Graduate Fellowship Program Application will be online! Through a partnership with Illinois Legal Aid Online, applicants to PILI's Law Student Internship Program have been using the online application system for five years, and this year Fellowship Program applicants will join them. Applicants must register on IllinoisProBono.org, and agency supervisors will need to create an agency profile to view and manage applications. Visit our website for more information, and contact us with any questions.

Upcoming Internship Program Application Periods
Application periods for PILI 2013 Spring and Summer Internships are opening soon:

- the application period for Spring 2013 PILI Internships will open on November 1 for all applicants, and
- the application period for Summer 2013 PILI Internships will open on October 15th for 2Ls and on December 1st for 1Ls.

Applicants must register on IllinoisProBono.org and submit a resume and cover letter. Visit our website for more information.

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 Alumni Reunion Reception: Get Your Tickets Now!

Please join us on Wednesday, October 10 for the 3rd annual PILI Alumni Reunion Reception at the Haymarket Brewpub, 737 West Randolph. Tickets are on sale now! Visit our website for more information. PILI Alumni, PILI board members, and friends of PILI are all welcome - we hope to see you there! Proceeds from the event will support the PILI Alumni Named Internship Fundraising Campaign.

Alumni Spotlight: Bob Jones, 1983 PILI Intern

In the summer of 1983, PILI's Law Student Internship Program was still relatively new and small. Bob Jones, then a rising 3L at Harvard Law School, was a PILI Intern at BPI, one of the original 4 legal service agencies participating in PILI's program. The main focus of Bob's Internship that summer was desegregation in Chicago schools and housing, including work on *Gautreaux et al. v. Chicago Housing Authority*, a landmark public housing desegregation lawsuit that helped change the face of public housing in Chicago, reform national public housing law and policy, and inspire some of the nation's most innovative housing programs. With only 23 Interns at 7 different agencies in 1983, PILI was a smaller program than it is today. Bob recalls visiting each of these agencies during his PILI summer for a brown bag lunch with all the PILI Interns and the attorneys from the host agency. "We all fit into one conference room!" he says. "There was a great feeling of camaraderie among

the Interns and a real sense of community among the agencies. The Interns felt that we got a real insider view of the broader public interest law scene in Chicago." *Click here to read more.*

Alumni Spotlight: Chanda Rice, 2009 PILI Fellow

With an unwavering commitment to raising the standard of advocacy for her pro bono clients, Chanda has volunteered hundreds of hours of pro bono work over the last few years as an associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Chanda served as a PILI Fellow at Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) working in CGLA's criminal records division. She not only staffed the expungement and sealing help desk at the Daley Center but prepared and argued motions to reconsider at the Cook County Criminal Court at 26th and California and prepared petitions for clemency for two clients. She also represented such clients in their hearing before the Illinois Prisoner Review Board. Chanda says her fondest memory of her experience as a PILI Fellow was watching her supervising attorneys interact with clients at the help desk and represent their clients in court. "Law school gives you the foundation for what you need as an attorney, and books can give you some strategy," Chanda explains, "but I learned by watching attorneys in action." *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.

PILI Law Firm Roundtable

PILI is organizing a Law Firm Pro Bono Roundtable to bring together law firm pro bono leaders from around Illinois, providing them with an opportunity to network, discuss the unique pro bono challenges facing law firm attorneys and share best practices and strategies for successful pro bono programs. PILI's 2012 Law Firm Pro Bono Roundtable will be held on Tuesday, November 13 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. Lunch will be provided. Register now or visit our website for more information.

PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono held September 12

John Levi discussing the future of pro bono at the PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono

The PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono was held on Wednesday, September 12 at the Chicago Bar Association. This year's topic was "The Future of Pro Bono." The Forum included a panel discussion featuring John Levi, Board Chairman of the Legal Services Corporation, Cheryl Zalenski, Director of the ABA Center on Pro Bono and Judge Debra Walker of the Circuit Court of Cook County, discussing the major initiatives in which the LSC and the ABA are engaged to advance pro bono. The second part of the program had pro bono leaders from law firms, corporations, law schools and public interest law organizations discussing in small groups several proposed initiatives to advance pro bono in Illinois, and generating ideas and strategies to implement these proposed initiatives. The program was approved for 2.0 hours of professional responsibility MCLE credits. MCLE certificates of attendance as well as a summary of the various ideas and strategies developed during the small-group roundtables will be distributed to all the over 70 attendees.

Law Students Explore Possibilities in Public Interest Law

Law students from around the Chicago area gathered on Saturday, September 29 to learn about opportunities in public interest law. PILI, the Chicago Area Law School Consortium (CALSC) and Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) co-sponsored the event. The program introduced law students to the public interest law and pro bono landscape with a panel discussion on finding public interest law placements and incorporating pro bono/public interest law into law school and a legal career, group mentoring sessions, and a presentation on job search strategies. Thanks to all of our panelists, mentors and presenters for making this event such a success!

Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees Update

PILI's Executive Director, Michael Bergmann, and Program Manager, Sheila Simhan, made a trip to the 14th Judicial Circuit in Rock Island to meet with members of the 14th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee in early September. The Committee is exploring the possibility of organizing a pro bono training session for attorneys interested in representing tenants in eviction proceedings and formally recognizing attorneys who have done significant pro bono work in the area. In coordination with Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, PILI has identified the 6th Judicial Circuit as the location to launch the next Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees. The Committee is made up of members of the judiciary as well as pro bono leaders from local law firms, corporations, bar associations, and public interest law organizations. It is scheduled to meet for the first time in October. For more information about PILI's Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees project, click here.

Pro Bono Spotlight: Butler Rubin Saltarelli & Boyd LLP

BR BUTLER RUBIN SALTARELLI & BOYD LLP

Butler Rubin Saltarelli & Boyd's pro bono work is driven by a strong conviction that "no firm is too small to do pro bono." A boutique litigation firm located in Chicago and working around the country, Butler Rubin truly sets the bar for other firms of its size, and for many much larger firms as well. "A lot of the leadership and a lot of the attention on pro bono has been focused on large law firms - and they're to be applauded and credited for the work they do," says Jim Morsch, the firm's Pro Bono Director. "But there's a lot of good pro bono going on in small to medium firms, and there's a lot more that can be done too." Butler Rubin's own pro bono program is itself a solid example of the good work being done in small- to mid-sized firm pro bono. Formally launched ten years ago in 2002, the program incorporates the interests and concerns of its attorneys and has grown over the years to include a staff pro bono program and a firm charitable giving program as well. Recently, Butler Rubin hosted a Dreamers Clinic in partnership with the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) to assist undocumented youth who want to apply for the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. *Click here to read more.*

Butler Rubin partner Catherine Isely at the Dreamers Clinic on 9/24

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