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PILI Public Interest Law Initiative

January/February 2013 | Issue: 24

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

Greetings!

2013 is already off to a strong start for PILI, with 9 spring semester PILI Interns having just started at their agencies, and with a brand new event in the works from the PILI Alumni Network. Our Legal Service Agency Roundtable is also coming up at the end of February, and you can register now or learn about all of our 2013 pro bono roundtables. As always, this edition of our newsletter has some inspiring spotlights, including the two new Intern and Fellow Representatives on our board of directors, as well as an ambitious law firm pro bono program that really delivers results.

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 Manager
Julia Kepler, Operations & Development Associate
Sheila Simhan, Program Manager

PILI News

Thanks to Our Supporters!
PILI is so very grateful for all of our supporters, old and new, who made a year-end or new year's contribution. Together, you contributed $13,000 to PILI, making this our most successful year-end appeal in recent years. We also had several new donors join our Giving Circles. Want to make a gift to PILI as we embark on 2013? It's not too late! Click here to learn more about ways to give to PILI.

New Event: PILI College Basketball Party

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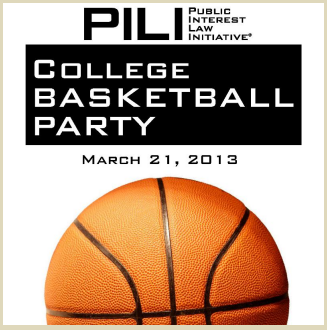
Additional Helpful Links

IllinoisProBono.org
More About the New IL Supreme Court Pro Bono Reporting Requirement



Do you like PILI? Or pro bono/public interest law? Or the NCAA college basketball tournament? Or having fun? Then you should come to PILI's College Basketball Party on March 21st at Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub, 400 North McClurg Court, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Your $35 ticket includes two hours of beer, wine, food, and all the college basketball you can handle. We will also be raffling off Cubs tickets. Click here to learn more and to get your tickets now! This event is brought to you by the PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council.

Call for Sponsorships: PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception

PILI is now seeking sponsors for our Annual Pro Bono Reception on June 19. Each year, this event draws hundreds of members of the Illinois legal community to celebrate the amazing work of law firm and corporate pro bono programs across the state. Learn more about sponsorship opportunities and this event on our website, or contact PILI's Executive Director, Michael Bergmann, for more information.

Keeping Up With PILI

Are you on Facebook or LinkedIn? Like or follow PILI for news and updates about our programs, events, and resources. We also post pictures from recent PILI events, our new PILI video, and stories about PILI friends and Alumni in the news. Check us out!

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.

Apply Now for Summer 2013 PILI Internships & Fellowships

The application period is still open for PILI Internships and Fellowships in the summer of 2013, and will remain open until our 58 Participating Agencies have completed their hiring. Questions about applying? Visit our website to view our Internship and Fellowship FAQs, or contact PILI Program Manager Sheila Simhan.

PILI Welcomes 9 Spring Semester Law Student Interns

Nine law students from 4 Chicago law schools are serving as PILI

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

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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Interns at 7 different legal service agencies this spring. Among them is Vanessa Hooker, a 2L from Loyola, who is doing her third consecutive PILI Internship at CARPLS! Our spring Interns also include Michael Wood, a 2L from Chicago-Kent, who is the Chicago Bar Foundation school-year PILI Intern at LAF Chicago. Michael had also been a summer Intern at LAF, and was inspired by his positive experience to apply again this spring. "LAF includes the law students in all their strategy and case acceptance discussions," he said. "There is no better way to learn than on the ground with some of the best attorneys in the field."

PILI Alumni Network

Today, over 3,000 law students and graduates have participated in PILI's Internship and Fellowship Programs. The Alumni Network maintains the connection between these lawyers, PILI, and the public interest law community. Below is the lastes news about PILI's Alumni Network. Visit PILI's website to learn more about our Alumni Network.

PILI Alumni Network Making Plans for 2013: Share Your Ideas!

The PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council, now entering its second year of operations, is meeting this week to map out our plans and new ideas for 2013. In addition to our new College Basketball Party on March 21st, we will once again host a CLE program this spring and an Alumni Reunion this fall. Are you a PILI Alum? Do you have ideas about what you'd like to see the PILI Alumni Network do this year? Take this quick, 3 question survey to share your input. And, stay tuned for more about what's in store for PILI Alumni in 2013!

PILI Welcomes New Alumni Board Members

Each year, PILI selects one Intern and one Fellow from a deep and impressive pool of applicants to serve on the PILI Board of Directors for a term of two years. We are pleased to announce our two new Representatives from the Class of 2012: PILI Intern Christine Ricardo, a 2L at The University of Chicago Law School, and PILI Fellow Paul Vaglica, a new associate at Latham & Watkins. Christine and Paul are also this newsletter's Alumni Spotlights, below. We are excited to have them join our board and share their experience, background, and passion for public interest law and pro bono. Welcome!

PILI Alumni Spotlight: Christine Ricardo, 2012 Intern

PILI's new Intern Representative on our Board of Directors is Christine Ricardo, a second-year law student at The University of Chicago Law School. Christine did her PILI Internship last summer at Lambda Legal, the nation's oldest and largest legal organization working for the civil rights of LGBT persons and people living with HIV/AIDS. "I firmly believe that the LGBT rights

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movement is one of the most important social movements of our lifetime and I had long admired Lambda's work from afar," says Christine. Eager as she was for the opportunity to work alongside the passionate lawyers on the front lines of a movement she cares so deeply about, Christine's Internship happened to come at a particularly exciting time for Lambda Legal. "Shortly before I started, Lambda and ACLU filed lawsuits against Cook County, claiming that the state's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. The case immediately garnered national attention and mobilized many supporters as well as opponents of marriage equality," she recounts. "I felt privileged to have a front-row seat to the legal strategizing involved in moving forward with such a historic case." *Click here to read more*.

PILI Alumni Spotlight: Paul Vaglica, 2012 Fellow

PILI's new Fellow Representative on our Board of Directors is Paul Vaglica, a first-year associate at Latham & Watkins LLP who recently graduated from Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He served as a PILI Fellow last summer at the MacArthur Justice Center, a nonprofit public interest law clinic that seeks to recover compensation for men and women who were wrongfully convicted due to police and prosecutorial misconduct. During his Fellowship, Paul assisted staff attorneys in various ways, including attending depositions, participating in strategy meetings, drafting motions, researching, and attending hearings. "I was part of a team of attorneys who made it their mission to remedy miscarriages of justice that occurred as a result of flaws within the criminal justice system," Paul says. "I became not only aware of injustices that have occurred (and continue to occur), but I was able to take an active role in recovering compensating for those individuals who have been wronged by our system." *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 our Pro Bono Initiative Program.

Register Now: Legal Service Agency Pro Bono Roundtable

PILI hosts the Legal Service Agency Roundtable each year to bring together public interest lawyers from a wide range of organizations and discuss best practices, strategies for successful programs, and opportunities for collaboration. This year's roundtable discussion topic is "Equal Justice Works & Skadden Fellowships: A Legal Service Agency Perspective." It will be held on **Thursday, February 28** from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, 222 North LaSalle. This program is complimentary, but registration is required by February 25. Visit our website to learn more and to register now.

Reminder: PILI's 2013 Pro Bono Roundtable Schedule
Mark your calendars! PILI's full 2013 Pro Bono Roundtable schedule has been set. PILI organizes these constituent group-specific Pro Bono Roundtables for pro bono leaders from across the state to come together and share ideas, strategies and best practices.

- February 28: Legal Service Agency Roundtable - *register now!*
- April 16: Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable
- July 10: Law School Pro Bono Roundtable
- November 5: Law Firm Pro Bono Roundtable

These programs are complimentary and open to all interested participants. Save the dates, and check our website for event agendas and registration information as each Roundtable approaches.

Call for Nominations: The John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award
The Illinois State Bar Association Committee on Delivery of Legal Services is seeking nominations for the 2012-13 ISBA John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award, which honors the extraordinary commitment of individuals, bar associations, or law firm/corporate legal departments to providing free legal services or expanding the availability of legal services to the income-eligible in Illinois. The award is named in memory of Rock Island attorney John McAndrews, who chaired the ISBA Committee on Delivery of Legal Services. Visit www.isba.org/awards/mcandrews for more information about how to make a nomination.

Pro Bono Spotlight: Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP
Neal Gerber Eisenberg, a Chicago-based firm of 160 attorneys servicing global clients, demonstrates how a law firm with a long-standing commitment to pro bono can take concrete steps to transform that commitment into increased action. In 2011, determined to broaden the scope and boost the amount of pro bono services provided by its lawyers, the firm took three key steps: (1) it issued a bold pro bono policy proclaiming the firm's commitment to pro bono as one of its core values, and expressing that commitment in ambitious goals for the number of hours devoted to pro bono service by each lawyer and by the firm as a whole; (2) it empowered its pro bono committee to develop innovative ways to promote and guide pro bono work; and (3) it created a "preferred provider" pipeline providing every attorney with access to pro bono work suited to their skills and interests. The results speak for themselves. In two years, the firm increased its overall attorney participation rate in pro bono services from 48% to 67% and the associate participation rate from 79% to 100%. The number of attorney hours devoted to pro bono also skyrocketed. *Click here to*

Neal Gerber Eisenberg senior partner Earl Melamed and associate Chloe Milstein working on a pro bono matter for Equip for Equality

read more.

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