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March/April 2013

Issue: 25

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

Greetings!

Things are busy at PILI these days, as evidenced by our longer-than-usual newsletter! In addition to gearing up for our summer programs, adding a new Internship placement and welcoming some new firms to our Fellowship Program, PILI is planning Pro Bono Roundtables and Alumni events, which include opportunities for CLE credit. And believe it or not, our Annual Pro Bono Reception is just around the corner on June 19! It's not just PILI that's hard at work - this newsletter's Alumni and Pro Bono Spotlights are changing lives and raising the bar for pro bono and public interest law across the state.

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

In This Issue

PILI News

PILI Internship & Fellowship Programs

PILI Alumni Network

PILI Pro Bono Initiative Program

PILI Helpful Links

about us

programs

participating agencies

events

resources

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

PILI News

PILI's Vision

At PILI, our mission is to cultivate a lifelong commitment to public interest law and pro bono service within the Illinois legal community to expand the availability of legal services for people, families and communities in need. Since 1977, we have carried out our mission in pursuit of a common vision, and in the last month, PILI has formally adopted our first ever vision statement:

PILI envisions a legal community with a deeply rooted culture of

service, where law students, lawyers and legal professionals at all stages of their careers engage in public interest law or pro bono work, and remain committed to addressing the unmet legal needs of the poor and underrepresented.

This new vision statement does not change anything we do, it simply helps us better articulate our ultimate purpose, and it connects us to the many other people and organizations striving toward the same goal. We hope this new vision statement resonates with you, and we thank you for everything you do to promote public interest law and pro bono!

New Grant from Alphawood Foundation, Other Foundations Renew Support

PILI is thrilled to report that we have received a new grant award in the amount of $10,000 in general operating support from Alphawood Foundation. The Chicago Bar Foundation has also renewed their grant of $22,000 and the Helen Brach Foundation has renewed their grant of $10,000, both in support of PILI's Law Student Internship Program. PILI is incredibly grateful to these foundations for their support and their commitment to PILI's mission.

Save the Date for PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception

On June 19, PILI will host our Annual Pro Bono Reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Ivy Room at Tree Studios, 12 East Ohio Street. A fixture in the Illinois pro bono community's summer calendar, PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception is regularly attended by over 200 guests from law firms, corporate legal departments, law schools, and legal service agencies across the state. It is a wonderful opportunity to bring your colleagues together to celebrate your own pro bono efforts and to network with the larger pro bono community while supporting the work of PILI's Pro Bono Initiative Program. At this event we will also unveil our 2013 Pro Bono Recognition Roster. Visit our website to learn more, or contact us for information about sponsorship opportunities. We hope to see you there!

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.

New Internship Position in Champaign

PILI is very excited to announce the creation of another brand new Law Student Internship position outside of Chicago, this one in Champaign, IL. This new PILI Intern will work at the Eastern Regional Office of Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, providing a range of civil legal assistance to low-income residents of 14 counties in central Illinois. Together with our other new Internship position outside of Chicago in Peoria, these two PILI Interns will help expand and enhance the availability of legal services for people living in

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

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PILI's Summer Seminar Series Kicks Off on June 4

Each summer, PILI organizes a Seminar Series for Interns & Fellows on a range of substantive law topics in legal aid, as well as career development issues in public interest and pro bono. We also host a variety of networking and social events as well, to help Interns & Fellows connect with each other and with the larger legal aid community. Our 2013 summer calendar will kick off with a luncheon on June 4. Harvey Grossman from the ACLU, PILI's 2012 Distinguished Public Service Award recipient, will share his perspectives on a long career in public interest law. New this year, PILI will host a reception for Fellows after the bar on August 15. The rest of our Seminar Series is taking shape - visit our website for updates.

New Firms Sponsoring PILI Fellows

PILI's Graduate Fellowship Program has been growing in recent years, thanks in part to a few firms that have recently started offering the program for the first time. Once such firm is Winston & Strawn LLP, which in 2012 sponsored 10 Fellows at 9 agencies. Winston has long supported PILI financially, and began offering the Fellowship Program as way to lend support to legal service agencies while also helping new associates begin their transition into a professional work environment. Greg McConnell, Pro Bono Counsel at Winston, says the program "has been an unqualified success." New this year, Foley & Lardner LLP will also join PILI's Fellowship Program. "We are excited about the opportunity for incoming attorneys to get some additional hands-on legal experience before they begin work here," says Bill Katt, Senior Counsel at Foley. Other law firms interested in joining PILI's Fellowship Program can contact PILI Executive Director Michael Bergmann by e-mail or by phone at 312-832-5129.

Set a Date for PILI to Meet Your Summer Associates

Does your firm currently sponsor PILI Fellows? If you would like PILI to come speak to your summer associates about our Graduate Fellowship Program this summer, contact Michael Bergmann by e-mail or by phone at 312-832-5129. We also have a new Fellowship Program brochure, which we would be happy to deliver to your firm for you to distribute to your summer class. Visit our website for more information about PILI's Graduate Fellowship Program.

PILI's 2013 Spring Semester Interns

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

Subscribe to our Newsletter

On February 20, PILI hosted a networking lunch for our 9 spring Interns. We were joined by PILI Alumni from the government, nonprofit, and law firm sectors, who talked about their own career paths and how their experience as a PILI has shaped their careers. Thanks to all of our Alumni and Interns who attended, and to Foley & Lardner LLP for hosting the luncheon.

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.

Upcoming PILI Alumni CLE Program

The PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council has organized a CLE program for PILI Alumni on ethical issues in pro bono representation. The program will be held on Wednesday, May 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Sidley Austin LLP, One South Dearborn, and will include an informal networking reception with refreshments and light appetizers. PILI has applied for 1.0 hour of Professional Responsibility CLE credit for this program. Visit our website for more information and to register now.

Alumni Needed for PILI's 2013 Advising Program

PILI is looking for Alumni to participate in the Intern and Fellow Advising Program. This program pairs 2013 Interns & Fellows with a member of PILI's Board of Directors or Alumni Network to give them valuable insights into the Illinois legal community, practice areas, career strategies, or initial networking inroads. If you are interested in participating, please click here to complete a brief survey (less than 5 minutes) to assist us in making a meaningful match between you and an Intern or Fellow. Contact PILI Program Manager Sheila Simhan at 312-832-5128 or by e-mail with any questions.

A Win for PILI with Order ON the Court!

PILI's Alumni Network Leadership Council hosted "Order ON the Court" on March 21st. Proceeds from the event will benefit the PILI Alumni Named Internship Fund, which supports PILI Interns each summer. PILI especially thanks Justin & Kim Heather, Jessica Schneider and family, and Quinlan Law Group for donating baseball tickets for the raffle, and the Law Bulletin Publishing Company for donating ad space. Check out our full event photo album on PILI's Facebook page.

Alumni Spotlight: Adela Carlin, 1999 Intern

Adela Carlin is the Director of the Community Engagement Unit (CEU) at LAF, an innovative program dedicated to outreach, education, and working with community organizations. Having grown up in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago, Adela understands well the communities she serves and the challenges they face. She saw the impact of poverty on her own neighborhood from a young age and knew even back then that she wanted to dedicate her life to making a difference. The first of her family to graduate from college, Adela enrolled in law school at the University of Illinois in 1997 and served as a PILI Intern in 1999 before graduating and beginning her career at LAF in 2000. *Click here to read more*.

Alumni Spotlight: Jenny Cassel, 2008 Fellow

Jenny Cassel has always been passionate about protecting the environment. Now a staff attorney at the Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC), Jenny worked on environmental issues as a PILI Fellow at the Chicago Legal Clinic in the summer of 2008. Prior to that, while in law school, she did an internship at ELPC. As an undergraduate and in high school, she was active in environmental clubs and causes. "I like to breath," she says, laughing, "and I want other people to be able to breathe easier too." Already, Jenny has had the chance to help others do just that, working to promote clean air, clean water, and clean energy. Her recent work as a lead negotiator for environmental groups on legislation to regulate fracking in Illinois is making a difference at the state level while setting the bar at the national level. *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.

PILI's Pro Bono Recognition Roster

Every year at our Annual Pro Bono Reception, PILI celebrates the noteworthy pro bono contributions of law firms and corporate legal departments throughout the state of Illinois through our Pro Bono Recognition Roster. Law firms and corporations play a critical role in meeting the legal needs of low-income and underrepresented people throughout the state, and PILI is proud to recognize their efforts. To learn more about requirements for inclusion on PILI's 2013 Pro Bono Recognition Roster, please visit our website. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 19. Call or e-mail Sheila Simhan, PILI's Program Manager, at 312-832-5128 with any questions.

Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable - Register Now!

Registration is now open for PILI's 2013 Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable on Tuesday, April 16 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. at Aon plc in Chicago. The Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable provides corporate pro bono leaders an opportunity to network, discuss the unique pro bono challenges facing corporate attorneys and share best practices and strategies for successful corporate pro bono programs. Corporate pro bono leaders are invited to participate in person or by phone, with lunch provided for those attending in person. This program is complimentary but registration is required by April 11. Visit our website to learn more and to register now. 1.0 hour of MCLE credit and Illinois Professional Responsibility credit have been approved for this program.

New Illinois Supreme Court Rules to Expand Pool of Pro Bono Attorneys

The Illinois Supreme Court has recently approved changes to Supreme Court Rules 716 and 756 that will reduce barriers for attorneys with house counsel status in Illinois who wish to perform pro bono. The revised Rules will also permit attorneys licensed in other states but not in Illinois to perform pro bono legal services under limited circumstances. The changes were advanced by the new Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice. According to Jeffrey Colman of Jenner & Block, the Commission's chairperson, "The Commission believes that these modest rule changes will help encourage and increase pro bono work in Illinois by making it easier for house counsel (particularly those outside of the Chicago area) to engage in pro bono services, and by permitting attorneys licensed only in other states to perform pro bono services under the carefully prescribed conditions set out in Rule756(j)." The revisions are being prepared for filing and will take effect upon filing.

Legal Service Agency Roundtable Held on February 28

PILI's Legal Service Agency Roundtable was held on February 28. Attendees from legal aid nonprofits in Chicago learned from experts

and talked with each other about obtaining and hosting post-graduate Fellows. Here, Cindy Wilson from Northwestern University Law School talks about her experience working with law students applying for Skadden and EJW fellowships. "These kinds of discussions are tremendously helpful," said one roundtable participant. "Thanks for bringing us together to discuss this important topic!" PILI wishes to thank all of our panelists and attendees, and Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP for hosting.

Pro Bono Spotlight: Illinois Legal Aid Online

Illinois Legal Aid Online, a close partner and friend of PILI's, has achieved many impressive milestones already in 2013. Their resources for pro bono practitioners are unmatched, and we are pleased to feature them in our March/April Pro Bono Spotlight!

Illinois Legal Aid Online

Improving access to justice through technology

Since 2001, Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO) has helped lower-income Illinois residents navigate the law when it matters most; whether trying to keep a family stably housed, safe and fed or dealing with a crushing legal problem such as domestic violence, mortgage foreclosure or child support, ILAO puts the law within reach for all, regardless of income, education or location. ILAO provides plain-language legal information, interactive forms and self-help instructions 24/7 from anywhere a person can access the internet. The largest and most cost-effective provider of legal services in Illinois, ILAO will welcome 2.7 million visits to its four award-winning websites this year:

- IllinoisLegalAid.org provides those who can't afford a lawyer with easy-to-use legal information, self-help instructions, interactive forms, and referrals to free legal services.
- IllinoisLegalAdvocate.org is an online portal for legal aid organizations to communicate, coordinate services, share training resources, and easily prepare legal documents.
- IllinoisProBono.org helps lawyers and legal professionals find volunteer opportunities and obtain the training and support needed to do pro bono legal work.
- AyudaLegalIL.org is the Spanish-language version of IllinoisLegalAid.org, providing accessible legal resources to Illinois' Latino communities.

2013 has begun with a bang for Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO) with the launch of their 102nd Legal Self Help Center in Randolph County. Now, for the first time ever, a public access point for legal information exists in each of Illinois' 102 counties. *Click here to read more.*

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