PILI Public Interest Law Initiative

May/June 2013

Issue: 26

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

Greetings!

Summer is upon us, and that means PILI's Internship & Fellowship Programs are in full swing, and our Annual Pro Bono Reception is just around the corner - we hope you'll join us! This newsletter has an update on our Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees project, which is taking off across the state, as well as the top three take-aways from our latest Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable and info about upcoming pro bono programming. As always, we have two great Alumni Spotlights and a special Pro Bono Spotlight on the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice - check it out!

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
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PILI News

PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception - June 19

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,

You're invited! PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at the Ivy Room at Tree Studios, located at 12 East Ohio Street in Chicago. Come celebrate the Illinois legal community's pro bono achievements and triumphs with your colleagues from across the state and across the legal profession. Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Kilbride will be present to announce PILI's 2013 Pro Bono Recognition Roster. We will have delicious appetizers and desserts, as well as beer and wine, and weather permitting, we will be able to enjoy The Ivy Room's beautiful outdoor courtyard. Click here to purchase tickets now. PILI is incredibly grateful to our many sponsors whose support makes possible our work to cultivate a lifelong commitment to public interest law and pro bono service.

New and Renewed Grants Support PILI Programs

PILI is thrilled to announce that the Illinois Bar Foundation has renewed its grant of $15,000 in support of PILI's Pro Bono Initiative Program. New this year, PILI will receive a grant from the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) to support a new Law Student Internship position during the fall semester. Thank you for your commitment to PILI!

PILI Attends the Equal Justice Conference

PILI staff members attended the ABA/NLADA's annual Equal Justice Conference in early May, along with over 700 other members of the national public interest law community. Executive Director Michael Bergmann presented on two different panels, one of which was called for an encore! The PILI staff had the chance to learn from colleagues across the country about their innovative approaches to hot topics in pro bono and public interest law, like a successful new emeritus fellowship program in Massachusetts, and a legal aid organization in Minnesota that's using online wikis to train volunteers. We are looking forward to trying out some of these new ideas at PILI in the coming year.

Michael Bergmann with the rest of his panel on working with volunteers at the Equal Justice Conference

PILI Law Student Internship & Graduate Fellowship Programs

PILI Interns (first or second year law students) and PILI Fellows

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

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(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 Internship & Fellowship Programs Kick Off Today!
PILI's 2013 Summer Law Student Internship & Graduate Fellowship Programs are underway, with 47 Interns and 61 Fellows serving at legal service agencies across this state. Our summer programming kicks off today with a luncheon at the Chicago Bar Association, where PILI's 2012 Distinguished Public Service Award Recipient, Harvey Grossman of the ACLU of Illinois, will share his perspectives on public interest law, looking back on a decades-long career and looking forward to what the future holds. Our full summer seminar schedule is online, and features seminars on topics like immigration law, health care, criminal justice reform and more, as well as free lunch at every program! All law student interns in the Chicago area this summer are invited to attend our lunchtime seminars, and interns not receiving PILI funding can even sign up on our website to receive weekly notices about upcoming programs. We look forward to seeing you all this summer!

Special Donors Sponsor Named and Honorary Interns
In addition to the dozens of Law Student Interns that PILI funds out of our general fundraising efforts with law firms, foundations, individuals and corporations, PILI also is able to designate a number of Named and Honorary Interns each year, thanks to special funding commitments made by individual and organizational champions for public interest law. PILI thanks the many individual and organizational donors that have sponsored Named and Honorary Interns in 2013. New this year is the Jerome Gilson Honorary Internship, sponsored by Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione and named in honor of their named partner, a longtime member of PILI's Board of Directors. Also new are the Nikki Will Stein Honorary Internship and the Polk Bros. Foundation Internship, both sponsored by the Polk Bros. Foundation, which has been a leader in funding the expansion of PILI's Law Student Internship Program in recent years. Nikki Will Stein is the immediate past executive director of the Polk Bros. Foundation, and another longtime member of PILI's board. Visit our website to see the full list of 2013 Named & Honorary Interns. Thanks to these generous donors for their commitment to PILI!

Robin Wagner, 2013 PILI Alumni Named Intern, with Christine Ricardo, 2012 PILI Intern Representative to PILI's Board, and Erin Grotheer, 2011 Roslyn C. Lieb Named Intern

Intern & Fellow Advising Program Reception - July 2
PILI offers an optional Advising Program to our Interns & Fellows, matching them with advisers from PILI's Board of Directors or PILI's Alumni Network to provide them with valuable insights into the Chicago pro bono and public interest legal community, practice

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areas, career strategies, and initial networking inroads. We will host a reception for Interns, Fellows and Advisers on Tuesday, July 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Contact PILI Program Manager Sheila Simhan by e-mail or by phone at 312-832-5128 to learn more. PILI thanks Loyola University School of Law for hosting this event.

PILI's 2012 Advising Program Reception

Set a Date for PILI to Meet Your Summer Associates
Does your firm currently sponsor PILI Fellows, or are you interested in getting your firm involved with PILI's Graduate Fellowship Program? PILI would love 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 to schedule a date. 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 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 Hosts CLE Program

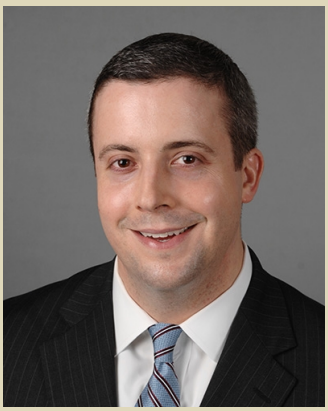
On May 22, PILI organized a CLE program and networking reception for PILI Alumni on Ethical Issues in Pro Bono Representation. Meg Benson of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, Mellissa Smart of the Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission, and David Holtermann of the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois were our esteemed panelists, and Jordan Heinz, double PILI Alumnus and partner at Kirkland & Ellis, served as our moderator. PILI wishes to

thank all of our panelists and attendees, as well as Sidley Austin LLP for generously hosting this event. Visit our website to learn more about the PILI Alumni Network's upcoming programs and events.

PILI Alumni Spotlight: Jill Roberts, 2007 Intern

Jill Roberts went to law school knowing she wanted to do public interest work. As a PILI Intern at Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing in 2007, following her second year of law school, she got a chance to get to know not only the Chicago legal aid community, but also what it's like to be a public interest lawyer. "When I first moved to Chicago and started law school, I knew nothing about the public interest community here except that I wanted to be a part of it," says Jill. "The first place I turned to was the PILI website to learn what was out there." During her PILI Internship at LCBH, Jill got to work on a wide range of issues, which included client interaction and negotiating with building owners. She conducted intake and presented her cases at the case acceptance meetings. She was also able to put her 711 license to use representing clients in eviction court. As part of her role at LCBH that summer, she visited buildings that LCBH was trying to preserve as affordable housing, attended tenant meetings, and observed building court. *Click here to read more.*

PILI Alumni Spotlight: Neill Jakobe, 2002 Fellow



Neill Jakobe was a PILI Fellow at Chicago Volunteer Legal Services in 2002. Having just graduated from the University of Michigan Law School, he spent the summer working on a wide range of issues with CVLS, including guardian ad litem cases, landlord/tenant matters, and dissolution of marriage matters. Neill says that the thing that he found most impressive about his time working at CVLS was the close and effective working relationship between team members there. "CVLS is a great collection of smart, hard-working people who truly believe in their work," Neill explains. "It was a very collaborative atmosphere. That sense of camaraderie is hard to find." Neill says he was grateful for the opportunity his Fellowship provided to use the skills he developed in law school to make a tangible difference in the lives of others. *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: PILI's Law School Pro Bono Roundtable - July 10

PILI's Law School Pro Bono Roundtable, part of our Pro Bono Roundtable Series, brings together law school pro bono and public interest law faculty and staff from around Illinois to discuss relevant issues and opportunities for law students interested in public interest law and pro bono. The 2013 Law School Roundtable will be held on July 10 from 3:30-5:00 at Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, 233 South Wacker Drive. Visit our website to learn more and to register by July 5.

Save the Date: PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono - September 19

The 2013 PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2:45 - 5:30 p.m. at the Chicago Bar Association Headquarters, 321 South Plymouth Court. PILI organizes this annual event to bring together pro bono leaders from law firms, corporations, legal aid agencies and law schools from around the state to discuss timely pro bono issues and share pro bono best practices. This year, we have invited the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice to co-sponsor the event, and the Forum will focus on discussing trends identified in their recent statewide listening conferences. See our special Pro Bono Spotlight below to learn more about the Commission, and visit our website for more updates about the Forum as it approaches.

Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees Update

A year ago, PILI announced our first two Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees in Illinois's 3rd and 14th judicial circuits. These committees are charged with promoting and enhancing pro bono legal services within their own specific judicial circuit by raising awareness of the need for free or low-cost legal services, identifying and reducing barriers to providing free or low-cost legal services, promoting pro bono legal services and recruiting attorneys to participate in existing pro bono programs; and recognizing the pro bono contributions of attorneys. In the last year, not only have these existing committees taken off with their own projects and ideas, but PILI has launched two additional committees, in the 5th and 6th judicial circuits. We will launch two more Committees later this year. Each Committee consists of members of the judiciary as well as pro bono leaders from local law firms, corporations, bar associations, and public interest law organizations. All of the Committees differ in size and their goals vary depending on the circuit's unique needs and challenges. PILI has been traveling all over the state to meet with these Committees and help them get the ball rolling on their various pro bono projects, and we have been consistently excited and inspired by their enthusiasm and ideas. Want to learn more about this project? Visit our website for updates on each Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee.

PILI Nominates State and National Pro Bono Award Recipients
PILI recently nominated McDonald's Corporation for the Illinois State Bar Association's John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award and Exelon Corporation for the ABA Pro Bono Publico Award. We are delighted to report that both corporations were selected as the recipients of their respective awards. McDonald's will receive theirs at the ISBA Annual Meeting in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin on June 21st and Exelon at the ABA's Pro Bono Publico Awards Luncheon during the ABA Annual Meeting in August in San Francisco. Congratulations to these companies, and thank you for your commitment to pro bono!

PILI's 2013 Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable

If you could get all of Illinois's corporate pro bono leaders together in one room, what do you think you could you learn from them? We can tell you! PILI held a Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable on Tuesday, April 16. From our standing-room-only conference room at Aon plc, here are the top 3 tips we learned from our program participants:

1. Partner with outside counsel and work on pro bono projects as a team to open new opportunities, build relationships and smooth out logistical obstacles.
2. Learn how to use brief online surveys to gauge the pro bono interests of attorneys and non-attorneys working in your department (ask PILI for samples!).
3. Be aware of the 2013 amendments to the Illinois Supreme Court Pro Bono Rules which expand the pool of potential pro bono attorneys in Illinois.

Visit our website to download the full discussion notes from PILI's 2013 Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable, and to learn more about upcoming events in PILI's Pro Bono Initiative Program. Thanks to Aon plc for hosting this program.

Pro Bono Spotlight: Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice
In June 2012, Illinois became the 28th state to establish an Access to Justice Commission ("Commission"). The purpose of the Commission is as far-reaching as it is urgent: "to promote, facilitate, and enhance equal access to justice with an emphasis on access to the Illinois civil courts and administrative agencies for all people, particularly the poor and vulnerable." The Commission is chaired by Jeffrey D. Colman,

partner at Jenner & Block, and recently hired Danielle Hirsch as its first Executive Director. In the last few months, the Commission has launched a series of listening conferences across the state to learn more about the most pressing legal needs and most promising opportunities in the access to justice area. *Click here to read more.*

Danielle Hirsch, Executive Director of the Commission

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