Public Interest Law Initiative®

December 16, 2013
Issue 29

Greetings!

PILI capped off 2013 with an inspirational Annual Awards Luncheon earlier this month - we've got pictures below, and each of our award recipients is featured here as a spotlight. Looking ahead to 2014, there are many opportunities to get involved with all of our programs: apply now for PILI Internships & Fellowships, join a PILI Alumni Team, and save the date for all of our upcoming Pro Bono Initiative events.

As 2013 comes to a close, we at PILI are so grateful for you, our supporters. From all of us here at PILI, have a safe and happy holiday season!

The Staff of the Public Interest Law Initiative
Michael G. Bergmann, Executive Director
Shana Heller-Ogden, Development & Communications Manager
Julia Kepler, Operations & Development Associate
Katie Pieper, Education & Outreach Manager

PILI News

Support PILI with a Year-End Gift
We at PILI are so very grateful for the generous support of our many donors. It's people like you who make it possible for us to pursue our mission 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. Make a gift to PILI today, or visit our website to learn more about the many ways in which you can support PILI.

PILI's 2013 Annual Awards Luncheon
Sponsored by over 50 law firms, corporations, and law schools, PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon was held on Thursday, December 5 at the Palmer House Hilton. With over 450 guests from across the state and across the legal profession, we honored our outstanding award recipients for their amazing pro bono and public interest work. You can read about our Distinguished Public Service Award recipient, Ann Hilton Fisher, and her remarkable career on our website, where you can also view our event photo album. Our Alumni and Pro Bono Initiative Award Recipients are featured below as spotlights. PILI wishes to thank all of our sponsors and guests for their generosity and support in making this a

successful event! Already looking forward to next year's Annual Awards Luncheon? Save the date! It will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2014.

Ann Hilton Fisher receives her award from PILI Board President Lee Ann Russo

Read PILI's New Annual Report
PILI's FY 2013 Annual Report is hot off the presses and full of statistics about our impact and stories from our program participants. You can read our 2013 Annual Report on our website, or contact us to request your own print copy. Thanks for a great year!

Law Student Internship & Graduate Fellowship Programs

Apply Now for 2014 PILI Internships & Fellowships
The application period is open now for all law students wishing to apply for PILI Internships or Fellowships in the summer of 2014. Interested applicants can find lots of useful information on our website about how to apply for Internships or Fellowships, as well as a list of legal service agencies hosting PILI Interns and Fellows and their position descriptions. You can also contact us with any questions. Many of our agencies are already interviewing and hiring their PILIs, so apply now!

School-year PILI Internships
PILI's school-year Internship Program has been growing by leaps and bounds in recent years. As the fall semester winds down, PILI wants to congratulate the five Interns finishing up their fall PILI Internships. One of these Interns spoke to a goal of the program in his evaluation when he told us, "This experience reinforced my passion for working as a public interest lawyer in the future." PILI also wishes to welcome the seven spring semester Interns who will be starting their Internships in the new year. They will be working at the Chicago Legal Clinic, CARPLS, Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, LAF, MALDEF, and the ACLU of Illinois. We look forward to seeing the impact you all will make on the Chicago legal aid community! Visit our website to learn more about PILI's school-year Internship opportunities.

PILI Alumni Network

PILI Alumni Reunion Reception Held October 16
The PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council wishes to thank everyone who attended PILI's 2013 Alumni Reunion Reception at Haymarket on October 16th! The event raised money to support the PILI Alumni Named Internship Campaign, which each year sponsors PILI Interns.

Join a PILI Alumni Team
Looking for an opportunity to get involved in 2014? Join a PILI Alumni Network Team! The Teams meet several times each year and assist the Alumni Network Leadership Council in planning and executing goals related to program planning, community outreach, public service, and fundraising. If interested, please contact Education & Outreach Manager Katie Pieper, or visit our website to learn more about each of our Alumni Teams.

Intern Alumni Spotlight: Marjie Nielsen, PILI's 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Marjie Nielsen has exhibited an unwavering dedication to serving the underserved throughout her legal career. Marjie was a PILI Intern at the Chicago Legal Clinic, and after graduating from Northwestern University School of Law, Marjie joined the staff at CLC and still works there today. She has helped thousands of low-income clients in cases involving family law issues, domestic violence, relief from criminal records, and more. Moreover, her willingness to support other attorneys and organizations has yielded new opportunities for collaboration that increase access to justice in Chicago. *Click here to read more.*

Fellow Alumni Spotlight: Max Stein, PILI's 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

In accepting his award, Max, who was featured as an Alumni Spotlight in a recent PILI newsletter, recounted his longstanding tradition of attending PILI's Awards Luncheons with his mother and grandfather, a tradition that began even before he attended law school and served as a PILI Fellow. Said Max:

> "I tell you this personal history because, after my family, PILI played perhaps the largest role in it. It was because of PILI, lunches like this, and people like all of you, that I am the lawyer I am today. And so today I especially want to thank PILI and all of you, its supporters, for the role you have played. I also want to urge you all to continue to support PILI and its mission of promoting public interest law. One way you can do that by making a donation to PILI - and I certainly urge you to do that. But, I think my story suggests you can also do that by making sure you pass your values down, as my colleagues throughout my career have done, and as mother and grandfather did when they first brought me to one of these luncheons. My wife Kyle (another PILI alum) and I hope we are doing that by having our daughters here today."

Read Max's full bio on our website.

Pro Bono Initiative

Mark your calendars for PILI's 2014 Pro Bono Programming

Save the Date! PILI has already scheduled all of our 2014 Pro Bono Roundtables and our Annual Pro Bono Reception. Visit our website for more information about any of these programs, or contact us with questions. We hope you will join us!

- February 26: Legal Service Agency Roundtable
- April 23: Corporate Pro Bono Roundtable
- June 18: Annual Pro Bono Reception
- July 10: Law School Pro Bono Roundtable
- November 5: Law Firm Pro Bono Roundtable

Chicago Federal Government Pro Bono Program Honors PILI

At the Federal Government Pro Bono Fair on December 6, PILI was recognized by Laura Klein, Pro Bono Manager at the Department of Justice, with a commendation for PILI's efforts in advancing the Chicago Federal Government Pro Bono Program:

> "Over the last seven years, you have served as our guide

through the Chicago legal services community, our mentor for issues related to Illinois law, and a constant resource and enthusiast as we progressed. It has been our distinct privilege and pleasure to work with you. Indeed, the Chicago Federal Government Pro Bono Program would likely not exist today without your guidance, hard work and support."

PILI Executive Director Michael Bergmann also gave the keynote speech at the Pro Bono Fair, highlighting the 2013 amendments to Illinois Rules that expand pro bono opportunities for attorneys admitted outside of Illinois.

Michael Bergmann
with Meaghan Johnson

Pro Bono Spotlight: DLA Piper (US) LLP, PILI's 2013 Pro Bono Initiative Award Recipient

As one of the largest law firms in the world, DLA Piper develops, manages and delivers quality pro bono legal services in immense size, scale and scope. Their pro bono work supports expanding access to justice and the rule of law in the communities where they work and around the world. Pro bono is ingrained in the firm's culture and their lawyers in Chicago are terrific examples of that culture, contributing nearly 23,000 hours of pro bono service in 2012 alone. *Click here to read more.*

Public Interest Law Initiative
321 North Clark Street, 28th Floor
Chicago, IL 60654

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