PILI Public Interest Law Initiative

July/August 2013 | Issue: 27

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

**Greetings!**

Change is in the air at PILI, as we bid farewell to Program Manager Sheila Simhan and launch the search for a new staff member while welcoming several new board members. We are also wrapping up our summer 2013 Intern & Fellow programming with a few more events in August, while planning for the fall with a PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono, an Alumni Reunion Reception, and the opening of the application period for fall PILI Internships. But as some things change, others stay the same: as always, we have some amazing Alumni Spotlights in this edition, and our Pro Bono Spotlight takes a look at this summer's Pro Bono Recognition Roster honorees.

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

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## Additional Helpful Links

IllinoisProBono.org

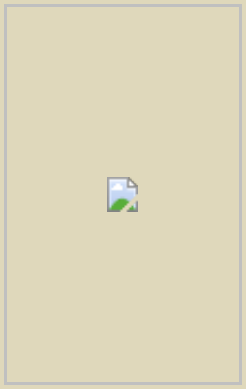
More About the New IL Supreme Court Pro Bono Reporting Requirement

New Illinois Supreme Court Rule Permits Retired,

# PILI News

**PILI Bids Farewell to Program Manager Sheila Simhan**

Sheila Simhan has been serving as PILI's Program Manager since she started here in February of 2011. During that time, she has increased the effectiveness of PILI's programs across the board, matched dozens of PILI Interns & Fellows with dozens more PILI Board Member and Alumni mentors, helped create the new PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council, and traveled the state in the name of pro bono, among many other accomplishments. PILI will miss her very much, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors!



**PILI Is Hiring: Education & Outreach Manager**

PILI is now hiring an Education & Outreach Manager. This position will have the primary responsibility for developing and implementing all of PILI's annual programming through our four Programs: the Law Student Internship Program, Graduate Fellowship Program, Alumni Network and Pro Bono Initiative Program. Download the full job description here, and please forward this posting on to anyone you know who may be interested.

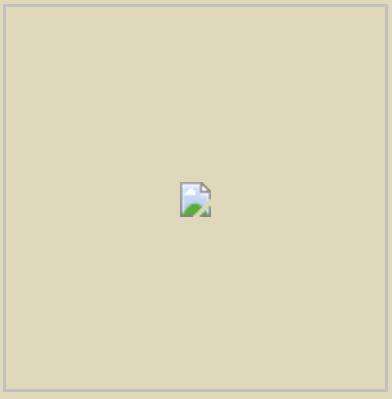
**Welcome New PILI Board Members!**

PILI is pleased to welcome seven new members to our Board of Directors! This group includes PILI's first Board Members from outside of Chicago, to reflect PILI's growing statewide focus. Our new Board Members are:

Alison Conlon, Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Jonathan Jennings, Pattishall, McAuliffe, Newbury, Hilliard & Geraldson
Lisa McCraw, Deere & Company
Michael O'Connor, Prairie State Legal Services
Puja Patel, Northwestern University Law School
Fred Snow, First American Bank
Susan Zielke, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation

**Submit a Nomination for PILI's Annual Awards**

Nominations are now open for PILI's 2013 Annual Awards:



- The **Distinguished Public Service Award** honors an individual whose commitment to public interest work has shaped a career dedicated to service
- The **Distinguished Alumni Awards** recognize one former PILI Intern and one former PILI Fellow for their outstanding contributions of public interest and/or pro


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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bono work
- The **Pro Bono Initiative Award** acknowledges a law firm or corporate legal department for its significant pro bono work in the communityYou are welcome to submit nominations for yourself or for others.

View the nomination form here, or visit our website for more information about the awards, the nomination process, and a list of past awardees. The nomination period will close on September 6, and awards will be presented at PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon on December 5th.

**Support PILI with a fiscal year-end gift!**
PILI's 2013 fiscal year comes to a close on August 31st. In the last year, we have taken our Law Student Internship Program statewide, increased firm participation in the Graduate Fellowship Program, launched 4 new Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees, and continued to build our Alumni Network. Support us in our work to cultivate a lifelong commitment to public interest law and pro bono service by making a gift to PILI today. There are many ways you can support PILI, including joining one of our Giving Circles or attending an upcoming PILI event - see our website or contact us for more details about any of these opportunities. Thank you for your support!

# 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.*

**August Programming for PILI Interns & Fellows**

PILI has two remaining summer educational seminars for Interns & Fellows coming up in August: Criminal Justice Reform in Illinois on August 6 and Issues Involved in Representing Youth on August 13. With the bar exam now behind us, we also have a special networking reception for our Fellows on Thursday, August 16 at Goldberg Kohn. Visit our website for more information and to register for these events.

**Apply Now for Fall Semester Internships**
PILI offers a limited number of fall Internships for second and third-year law students attending law school in the Chicago area. School-year Interns work 200 hours during the spring or fall semester. The

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application period is now open for our five available fall Internship positions. Check our website to learn more about how to apply and to see a list of agencies hosting PILI Interns in the fall. For spring 2014 PILI Internships, the application period will open on November 1st.

**PILI's Summer 2013 Advising Program**

On July 2, PILI held a networking reception for all PILI Interns, Fellows, Alumni, and Board Members participating in our Advising Program this summer. Board Member and Alumni advisers help PILI Interns and Fellows get to know the Chicago legal and legal aid community, learn about career paths, and build their own personal networks. Thanks to everyone who attended the reception and participated in this program, and to Loyola University School of Law for hosting!

## 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.*

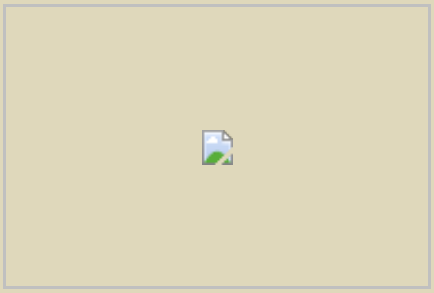
**Save the Date for the PILI Alumni Reunion Reception: October 16**

PILI will hold its 4th annual Alumni Reunion Reception on Wednesday, October 16th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Haymarket Pub & Brewery, 737 West Randolph Street in Chicago. This event is a chance for PILI Intern and Fellow Alumni from across PILI's history to get together, get to know each other, and celebrate PILI's Internship and Fellowship Programs. Proceeds from the event support a PILI Alumni Named Intern for the summer of 2014. Save the date, and check back in September when tickets go on sale!

**New Alumni Public Service Team**

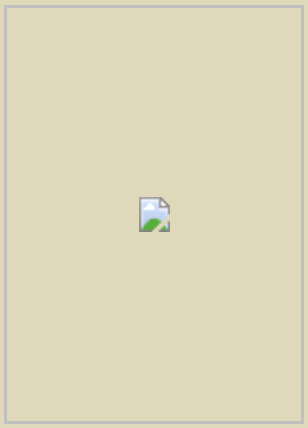
PILI's Alumni Network Leadership Council has just launched a new Alumni Public Service Team. Led by Marc Katz, a former PILI Fellow currently at Career Builder, this team will develop and implement public service projects for members of the PILI Alumni Network to undertake together, in partnership with PILI's Participating Agencies. If you are interested in joining this or any of PILI's other Alumni Teams (like Program Planning, Fundraising, or Outreach), please let us know!

**Alumni Spotlight: Jessica Schneider, 2009 PILI Intern**



Jessica Schneider remembers her first day as a PILI Intern at MALDEF in 2009 very well: it was the day that MALDEF's Executive Director was interviewed on TV about the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court. "One of the other interns was in a 'walking shot' that appeared later on the local news," Jessica recalls. "It was pretty exciting for us." Now a staff attorney at the Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Jessica has had several much closer encounters with the news media lately, in English and in Spanish, both for her work on educational equity and other issues in Chicago, and for her volunteer work with Legal Prep Charter Academy (you can catch Jessica in print and on camera over at PILI In The News). *Click here to read more.*

**Alumni Spotlight: Max Stein, 2001 PILI Fellow**



Max Stein was a PILI Fellow at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law in 2001, but his connection to PILI started well before that."I began going to the PILI luncheons with my grandfather, Hubert Will, a federal judge here in Chicago, and my mother, Nikki Will Stein who later became a member of the PILI Board, before I even went to law school," Max explains. "They clearly had a sense of where my career might take me and began working early to make sure it included an awareness of the importance of public interest work and used PILI to raise that awareness." When Max later began his legal career as a paralegal at Mayer Brown , he began to show that their efforts succeeded, as he had the opportunity to work on a number of pro bono matters there. The PILI Fellowship seemed like a natural step for Max upon graduation from law school. While at the Shriver Center, Max worked on several projects including research on TANF renewal and research for litigation that related to the CHA's Plan for Revitalization. Says Max, "The most interesting part of my time there was not as much the work I did, but the glimpse it gave me into the wide variety of work that the organization as a whole was doing-from impact litigation to policy initiatives to lobbying, it was quite amazing to see." *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 for the PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono**

PILI organizes the Illinois Forum on Pro Bono 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. For this year's Forum, we are partnering with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice to learn about the work of the Commission over the last year and to discuss new and innovative ways to improve and expand pro bono around the state. This year, the PILI Illinois Forum on Pro Bono will be held on Wednesday, September 18 from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. at the Chicago Bar Association. Register now on our website.

**PILI's Law School Pro Bono Roundtable**

PILI held a Law School Pro Bono Roundtable on July 10. Participants from across the state discussed bridge to practice programs and innovative approaches for law students to connect with the private and public sector in Illinois, while also hearing an update on the Chicago Bar Foundation's Justice Entrepreneurship Project and Illinois Legal Aid Online's new Volunteer Search and Internship/Fellowship Application System. Thanks to everyone who attended, and to Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, Ltd. for hosting.

**Pro Bono Spotlight: PILI's Pro Bono Recognition Roster**

Understanding the mounting legal needs of Illinois' poor and underrepresented, and realizing the critical role that law firms and corporations play in meeting that need through pro bono legal assistance, PILI seeks to celebrate the noteworthy pro bono contributions of law firms and corporate legal departments throughout the state of Illinois through our Pro Bono Recognition Roster. The Pro Bono Recognition Roster is unveiled each year at PILI's Annual Pro Bono Reception, which this year was held on June 19. This year, there were 34 law firms and 10 corporate legal departments named to the roster, which you can view on our website. Here is a sample, taken from the Pro Bono Recognition Roster applications, of some of the remarkable pro bono work being done in Illinois. *Click here to read more.*

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