One of PILI’s many projects this year was to update our mission, vision and values statements, which are listed on the opposite page. Our programs have grown immensely in the last several years and we wanted to reflect this expansion. Even so, our mission has not really changed. Since 1977, PILI’s goals have included raising people out of poverty, ensuring safe living conditions and strengthening communities through access to free legal services for those that cannot afford an attorney. We have done this by mobilizing law students and lawyers in public interest law and pro bono service at all points in their career. In other words, we have engaged, inspired and empowered those advancing equal access to justice.

We invite you to read about the impact of this work in our 2019 Year in Review, and to find a way to get involved. It is only through all of our hard work that equal access to justice can become a reality in Illinois.

Sarah M. Bernstein
PILI Board President

Michael G. Bergmann
PILI Executive Director
Through our Law Student Internship Program, PILI engages law students from across the country with public interest law by connecting them with agencies in Illinois. We provide Internship stipends, ensure quality supervision by experienced public interest law attorneys and provide supplement educational, networking and mentoring opportunities to the Interns.

While this program provides huge value to the law students we engage, it also gives our Participating Agencies extra staffing support and allows them to help more clients in need.

“In PILI has given me the opportunity to gain experience that puts me in direct contact with a vulnerable population that I care about and allows me to equip myself with a great network of like-minded individuals.”

- Nora Cygan, 2019 Law Student Intern
PILI’s Graduate Fellowship Program places new associates from law firms at public interest law agencies in Illinois while they study for the bar exam. They are paid by their hiring firm while they develop lawyering skills, build professional networks and gain real world experience outside of law school.

This program serves as a recruitment tool for law firms, demonstrating their commitment to pro bono while attracting hard-working and dedicated candidates. Many of the Fellows feel inspired to maintain their pro bono practice after joining their firms and often take pro bono cases with them.

“This program gave me a greater understanding of the impact the practice of law in the public interest field can have. This is the most I have learned about law and the practice of law since beginning law school.”

- Maggie Adams, 2019 Graduate Fellow

In 2019...

78 Fellows from 13 law firms worked 23,400 hours at one of 60 agencies across Illinois to help 1,521 clients in need and provided policy and advocacy work on behalf of thousands more.

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ALUMNI NETWORK

More than 4,000 PILI Interns and Fellows have gone on to join the legal profession. Through the PILI Alumni Network, they remain connected to public interest law and pro bono.

Our Alumni Network Leadership Council plans educational, networking, leadership and service opportunities throughout the year to empower Alumni to continue to serve and connect to the new classes of Interns and Fellows.

“PILI Alumni are my people. The PILI Alumni are more than a network, it’s a community of people supporting each other.”

- Jessica Schneider, Chair of the PILI Alumni Network Leadership Council

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Nidhi Narainwala, Baker McKenzie (2018 Fellow)
Patricia Varona Garcia, UIC John Marshall Law School (2018 Intern)

WWW.PILI.ORG/ALUMNI

October 24, 2018
PILI Alumni Legal Answer Clinic

May 15, 2019
On the Table CLE: #MeToo in the Legal Profession

June 17, 2019
Alumni Service Project at Lawson House YMCA

$27,347 raised by PILI Alumni

22 clients helped at monthly Alumni Legal Clinic
There are less than 500 legal aid attorneys in the entire state of Illinois and most of these attorneys are in Chicago. The only way to ensure equal access to justice is for attorneys in the private bar to provide pro bono service to those who cannot afford an attorney.

Our Pro Bono Program works to engage attorneys in pro bono by offering educational programming and resources, developing innovative pro bono opportunities, cultivating best practices and celebrating life-changing pro bono work across the state.

"If you want to see a change in your community, it has to start with you. I try to make volunteering a part of my routine – setting aside some time each month to give back in one fashion or another."

- Abigail Fleming, PILI Pro Bono Volunteer

Pro bono leaders from law firms, corporations, legal aid agencies and law schools connect through the Pro Bono Initiative at Pro Bono Forums and Roundtables. PILI also provides resources and technical assistance to increase pro bono.

In order to increase pro bono service on the local level, PILI has eight Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees around the state to promote and enhance pro bono legal services within their communities.

attorneys attended Pro Bono Forums and Roundtables

ATTORNEYS ATTENDED CLEs COSPONSORED BY PILI FOCUSED ON INCREASING PRO BONO SERVICE

attorneys attended CLEs focused on increasing pro bono service.
PRO BONO PROGRAM

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

While there is a fairly robust legal aid and pro bono network in Cook County, this is not the case in the 101 counties around the state. We work closely with existing legal aid programs, bar associations and other stakeholders to develop targeted pro bono opportunities to serve those who would not otherwise receive legal services.

PILI takes on clients who have nowhere else to turn and empowers attorneys with the tools to provide access to justice.

“I had the privilege to represent a man who simply could not afford to have an attorney help him get divorced. Due to a minor learning disability, he did not have the intellectual capacity to prepare pleadings on his own or work with the clerk’s office to file his paperwork. Thanks to the Public Interest Law Initiative, I was able to work with him and assist him in the dissolution process. When the case was finalized, the client was incredibly grateful and had tears in his eyes. The resources and impact PILI provides through pro bono work in our community can change a life. As an attorney in Peoria, I am lucky to be a small part of that.”

- Mitch Gilfillan, PILI Pro Bono Volunteer

In 2019...

318 pro bono volunteers provided legal assistance to 762 clients in need through PILI’s pro bono projects, including:

- Illinois Free Legal Answers
- Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network
- Self-Represented Litigant Help Desks
- Legal Help Within Reach
- Conflict of Interest Pro Bono Referral Panel
- Expungement & Sealing Summits
- Free Legal Advice Fairs
PRO BONO RECOGNITION

While there is still a critical amount of unmet legal need in Illinois, there is also a significant amount of pro bono work being done by individuals as well as law firms and corporations of all sizes throughout the state. PILI believes it is important to recognize those that are advancing equal access to justice.

In recognizing those who are contributing, we also share their stories and impact to hopefully inspire others to help.

"Pro bono attorneys have the chance to change their clients' lives. You could be the ear they've never had listen to them; the voice they've never had speak for them; the advocate they've never had fight for them."

- Michael G. Bergmann, PILI Executive Director
GET INVOLVED WITH PILI

While PILI works to engage, inspire and empower, you play a key role in increasing access to justice by volunteering, donating and supporting.

BECOME A PRO BONO VOLUNTEER
From brief services and limited scope representation to representing those in need of legal assistance in court, PILI has a variety of pro bono opportunities across Illinois.

ATTEND A PROGRAM OR EVENT
Throughout the year, PILI offers a wide array of educational programming as well as networking and fundraising events across the state for law students, lawyers and others interested in our work.

PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Individuals, law firms, corporations and foundations provide the critical support that PILI needs. Donations to PILI are an investment in the long-term stability of public interest law and pro bono. We take your trust in us to use your financial support very seriously. In fact, 87% of the funds PILI raised in PILI’s most recently completed fiscal year were used to support its programs.

JOIN ONE OF PILI’S LEADERSHIP BOARDS
A dedicated group of leaders from across the legal sector help PILI to achieve its mission. Their leadership and support is critical to our success. This includes our Board of Directors, Alumni Leadership, Young Professionals Board and Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committees.

APPLY TO BE A LAW STUDENT INTERN OR GRADUATE FELLOW
Current law students can apply for PILI Internships and Fellowships to jump start the pro bono and public interest careers.

REMAIN CONNECTED TO PILI AS A FORMER INTERN OR FELLOW
It’s never too late to engage with the PILI Alumni Network! Become an advisor, join a planning team or attend an event to get involved.

WWW.PILI.ORG/GET-INVOLVED
EXPENSES

Personnel (Salary, Tax, Benefits).......................... 518,937
Grants & Education............................................. 340,424
Occupancy.......................................................... 46,400
Program Meetings, Conferences and Travel............ 40,473
Professional Fees .................................................. 12,176
Miscellaneous...................................................... 11,918
Insurance............................................................. 8,944
Printing & Publications.......................................... 6,186
Postage & Shipping............................................... 4,784
Dues & Subscriptions............................................ 3,246
Office Supplies .................................................... 2,558
Telephone & Internet............................................ 1,391
Equipment Rental & Small Purchases...................... 656
Depreciation.......................................................... 576

TOTAL: $998,669

INCOME

Foundations & Corporations................................. 461,481
Special Events..................................................... 253,413
Law Firms.............................................................. 122,900
Board & Individual Contributions.......................... 96,392
Contribution from Endowment.............................. 85,000
In-kind Support.................................................... 45,500
Interest & Dividends*............................................ 3,244

TOTAL: $1,067,930

*This reflects only unrestricted interest and dividends, and does not include restricted funds in the Endowment Fund.

Please note: The data is an unofficial representation of PILI’s FY 2019 audited financial statements. To see our complete and official audit, contact us at info@pili.org or download it from our website at www.pili.org/about/financial-information.

IN-KIND SUPPORT

PILI receives substantial in-kind support from Foley & Lardner LLP, which provides our Chicago office space. We are also grateful to Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP for their in-kind donation of our Peoria office space. UIC John Marshall Law School generously provides space for our summer Intern & Fellow educational programming. Additionally, we received generous in-kind support from Precision Color Graphics. We are also grateful for the many other law firms, law schools and corporations that donate space and other resources to host our programs and events.
Members of PILI Giving Circles are a special group of supporters who embrace our mission and take a personal interest in our success. Giving Circle members commit to give one of the following amounts annually each year for five years.

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- Brad & Terri Lane, funding one summer PILI Intern
- Lee Ann Russo & Casey Miller, funding one school-year PILI Intern

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PILI designates a number of Named and Honorary Interns each year, thanks to special funding commitments made by the following individuals and organizations:

- Baker McKenzie
- Brinks Gilson Lione in honor of Jerome Gilson
- Chicago Bar Foundation
- Dolores K. Hanna Estate
- Florence Miller Endowment
- Francis Beidler Foundation in memory of Alfred C. Tisdahl
- Illinois State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division
- Jerome Mirza Foundation
- Justice Sheila O’Brien and Judge Wayne Anderson
- LAGBAC Foundation
- PILI Alumni
- Polk Bros. Foundation in honor of Nikki Will Stein
- Retirement Research Foundation
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- Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois in honor of Ruth Ann Schmitt
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82,212 raised by Board and YPB Members

36 Board Members acted as Advisors to 2019 Interns and Fellows

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