

The Public Interest Law Foundation
www.pilf.org

Fall 2005

Upcoming Activities:

- Social Justice Speaker series, professor panel, Sept. 13, 12:15-1:15 in Student Lounge
Social Justice Speaker Series, ACLU's Rajana Natarajan, Sept. 20, 12:15-1:15 in Student Lounge
General Relief Advocacy Project (GRAP) training, Sept. 14 5:00-7:00 in C002 (dinner provided)
Break the Cycle volunteer training, Sept. 15 3:00-5:50pm, in the H80s (dinner provided)
Harriet Buhai Center volunteer training, October 20, 5:30-8:00 p.m, location TBD.
13th Annual Fall Auction and Casino Night, October 22

PILF 13th Annual Fall Auction and Casino Night

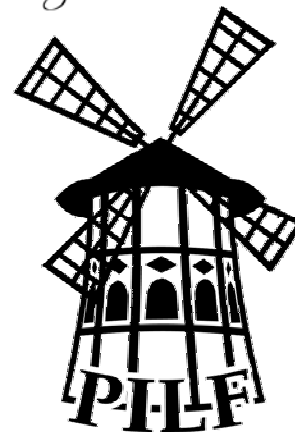
PILF's Annual Auction raises substantial funds which go to public interest stipends for law students working for public interest firms during summer, bar stipends for students committed to public interest work, and ongoing PILF-sponsored projects. It is PILF's biggest fundraiser, and one of the largest student events at Loyola Law School.

The 13th Annual Auction & Casino Night celebrates "A Night at the Moulin Rouge." The event will

include a live auction, a silent auction, catered dinner, an open bar, a fully staffed fantasy casino, and live entertainment, including various acts put on by Loyola faculty, alumni, and students. It's also a great opportunity to meet other students and chat with professors outside the class setting.

PILF is currently seeking donations of items for the auctions, as well as volunteers for the event. For information on donations or volunteer

A Night at the Moulin Rouge



opportunities please contact Stephanie Unguez at auction2005@pilf.org, or visit our website at www.pilf.org. Tickets will go on sale soon.

PILF Awarded \$23,000 in Scholarships for Bar Stipends and Public Interest Work in 2005

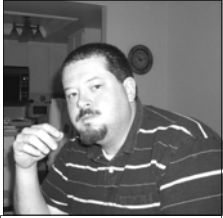
In 2005, the Loyola Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) awarded \$23,000 in scholarships and bar stipends to students so that they could do public interest work.

PILF is a non-partisan, student-run organization committed to fostering the careers of students who intend to dedicate themselves to providing assistance to those traditionally under-served in the legal system.

Each summer PILF supports selected students working for approved public interest organizations with a \$1,000 scholarship or, for graduating students, a grant to help defray the cost of bar courses and test fees.

The summer stipend scholarship is awarded in addition to any other funding the student may receive. All first and second year students may

apply for the scholarship. Criteria for the scholarship award includes public interest participation and a demonstrated commitment to PILF, including volunteering for the organization. Applications will be available to all students in late Spring Semester. See inside for more details on how students used their summer stipends to work in the public interest.



Dylan Roy

“My tasks have included face to face client interviews, authoring a successful memorandum that influenced a county agency to end a practice that discriminated against foster children, beginning the research and development of a model of representation for dependency attorneys, and authoring a chapter in a state-wide dependency law training manual.”

PILF Summer Stipend Recipients Share Their Stories

This year, PILF awarded summer stipends to 18 first and second year students to work in the public interest. These students worked in organizations across Los Angeles, including: Bet Tzedek Legal Services, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, the Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles, the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services, and (here on campus) the Center for Conflict Resolution and the Western Law Center for Disability Rights. We asked our stipend recipients to share some of what they learned this summer. Below is a selection of excerpts from their responses.

What did you do at your public interest position this summer?

“I ... had the opportunity to assist a public defender during a juvenile court hearing by addressing the court on behalf of our client. This resulted in allowing a student a second chance to remain close to his family rather than be sent away to a camp.” — Jesse Espinoza, WESTERN LAW CENTER FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS

“I answered calls to the Korean hotline and returned messages in regards to legal needs. If necessary, a client was taken on and his/her case opened. In which case, I would monitor it, do necessary paperwork, filings,

attend hearings and court sessions. Our API unit helps in various substantive matters, such as housing, eviction, domestic violence and government benefits.” — Sonia Lee, Asian-Pacific Islander Unit, LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

“I have had an incredible experience here this summer. ... I have had an immense amount of client contact doing intakes and interviews. I have drafted appellate briefs to the Board of Immigration Appeals. I have prepared a few asylum cases as well. At the end of the summer I will also be representing a client in deportation proceedings at his merits hearing before an immigration judge.” — Jorgie Ellsworth, CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK

How did the PILF summer stipend help?

“The stipend helped tremendously. ... The stipend covered almost 2 months worth of rent, so I was able to devote myself full-time to public interest during the summer without having to take a second job.”— Carley Mak, WESTERN LAW CENTER FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS

“Since I was able to work full-time at the CCR, I could follow my cases more closely,

return calls more quickly, and generally provide better service than I could if I were only working a few hours a week.” — Stephanie Unguez, CENTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

What did you learn from your public interest experience?

“I learned quite a bit in my respective areas of law, but most of all I learned how the law affects people in a way that is not entirely cognizable while learning it in class. I've since developed better people skills that have allowed me to interview clients with ease, which allows me to better serve their interests.” — Jaime Cartagena, Housing, Consumer & Worker's Rights and Government Benefits Units, LOS ANGELES COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

“I learned that there are a lot of unscrupulous individuals in this world who prey on the poor and uneducated and that it's important to fight for the rights of those less fortunate than yourself (since only a few others will).” — Serita Holness, Home Equity Fraud Project, BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES

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What advice do you have for other students who are interested in a career in public interest law?

“Definitely do an internship, clerkship or externship in an area that might interest you. The help is always appreciated and the experience is valuable in deciding whether or not this is what you want to do.” — Sonia Lee, LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

“There are so many great opportunities in public interest that we would not be able to get at a traditional law firm. For example, I

handled every aspect of my cases, from initial intake to resolution, and as a result, I became personally invested in them. It's a great responsibility to know that people are counting on you to help them.” — Stephanie Unguez, THE CENTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

“Volunteer for varying aspects of public interest law so that you can find what area really peaks your interest. In public interest, it is really important to be passionate about what you are doing as your assistance can help someone maintain a place to live, knowing what rights they are entitled to,

and just having the means to survive.” — Jamie Cartagena, LOS ANGELES COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

“My advice for others interested in public interest law is to go out and do it. There is only so much you can learn from a class—abstract concepts can never make you fully understand what it means and what it feels like to help someone who really needs it. It is the most incredible feeling in the world.” — Jorgie Ellsworth, CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK



Carley Mak

“I learned more from WLCDR than I can ever put into words ... Public interest is definitely a worthy calling. Even though it gets busy and frustrating sometimes, it feels good at the end of the day because I know I am on the side of the good guys.”

PILF Institutes Volunteer Requirement for Summer Stipend Recipients

Since volunteers make all of PILF's fundraising events possible—and fundraising makes our summer stipend program possible—participation in PILF events will be **required** for all summer stipend applicants, and will be one of the top criteria considered on the application. There are many opportunities to help, starting with our auction in October. We will also need help with our Spring fundraisers, including the Spring Pledge Drive and our first ever 5K run. To find out how to get involved with the auction, contact Stephanie Unguez at auction2005@pilf.org. For other volunteer opportunities, watch for announcements in or contact our board secretary, Shauna Curphey, at shauna.curphey@lls.edu.

Social Justice Speaker Series Continues

PILF is proud to offer the Social Justice Speakers Series again this year. Throughout the year, we will present speakers on law and social justice and how to build a career in the public interest arena. This year's series begins on **Tuesday, September 13 from 12:15-1:15** in the student lounge. A panel of faculty members, including **Professors Nockelby, May and Willis** will speak about the public interest work they have done in their careers, and how public interest can touch many different areas of the law.

Our second event will take place **Tuesday, September 20** (same place and time) with the **ACLU's Ranjana Natarajan** from speaking about the ACLU in general and her work with the Muslim community addressing post-9/11 issues.

Promote Justice With PILF Service Projects

PILF works with local public service agencies to provide Loyola students with the opportunity to gain experience in public interest law. For most first year students, this may be their only opportunity to work with actual clients during their first year. Second and third year students can apply their service towards Loyola's public interest graduation requirement. This year's projects include opportunities to volunteer at Public Counsel, the Harriet Buhai Center and Break the Cycle.

Public Counsel

Loyola students can work for Public Counsel's General Relief Advocacy Project (GRAP). Through GRAP, law students visit Los Angeles County Department of Social Services (DPSS) locations to advocate for people applying for general relief and food stamps.

GRAP Advocates at Loyola include day and evening law students willing to commit to GRAP trips approximately once per month during the fall and spring semesters. Advocates must attend a

two-hour training session to become 'certified' for GRAP trips. Training for Fall 2005 will take place on **Sept. 14, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Location is C002 and pizza will be served. For more information, contact Aurora Remy De La Peza at remy.delapeza@lls.edu.

Harriet Buhai Center

Founded in 1982, the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law is one of the largest providers of family law and domestic violence assistance to low-income persons in Los Angeles. The Center focuses on legal problems involving custody, visitation, support of children, domestic violence, and establishing parentage.

Loyola students working at the Harriett Buhai Center have an opportunity to gain valuable legal skills, such as interviewing clients, drafting legal memos, preparing pleadings and court documents. PILF will host a training for all interested Loyola students on

Thursday, **October 20, 2005 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Location is TBD. All participants of the training are required to fulfill 45 volunteer hours for the year. For more information, contact Patty Chan at patty.chan@lls.edu.

Break the Cycle

Each semester Break the Cycle trains approximately 15 new students to teach teens across Los Angeles County about domestic violence and the law. Volunteers can also lend a hand in Break the Cycle's office by conducting legal research, finding referrals for callers in need, or providing other assistance.

If you'd like to get involved as a volunteer, attend their next Loyola Law School volunteer training hosted by PILF on **Sept. 15 from 3:00-5:50**, with registration beginning at 2:45pm (dinner will be provided).

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We hope to make this an exceptionally successful year for PILF. Keep watching your student email account for information on our many upcoming events. Also, please feel free to contact us at shauna.curphey@lls.edu with questions about how you can get involved.