

PILF

Spring 2006

Upcoming Activities:

- PILF General Meetings — Summer grant applications and board applications distributed, **March 15th at 12:00pm and 5:00pm**
- Spring Pledge Drive & Online Auction, **April 3rd - 7th**
- PILF alumni gathering and award presentation, **April 2006**. Date TBA
- Grant applications due **April 7th, 12:00pm** in the PILF office, FH 226
- Board applications due **April 14th, 12:00pm** in the PILF office, FH 226
- Service projects continue (see inside for details)
- Social Justice Speaker Series continues (see inside for details)

The Public Interest Law Foundation

Want Meaningful Work? Want to Get Paid? PILF Can Help

Step One: Contact local organizations, visit PILF's web site or stop by the Public Interest Law Department

Still looking for a public interest position for this summer? It's not too late! A lot of students find summer positions by making their own contacts. You can use the list of organizations attending the UCLA Public Interest Fair on February 4th or visit PILF's web site (www.pilg.org) for links to social justice organizations. The Public Interest Law Department maintains a list of approved pro bono organizations — another great source for your summer search.

Step Two: Apply for Summer Work Study Funding from Loyola

Loyola Law School's federal work study program supports 70 students (60 in public interest, 10 in government positions) working at local non-profits and government agencies over the summer. Students must be eligible for federal work study to receive the award and are paid on an hourly basis at a rate of \$10 per hour or as determined by the hiring agency. The maximum amount earned in Summer 2005 was \$3,500. Go to the Public Interest Law Department's web site at <http://intranet.lls.edu/publicinterestlaw/summer/index.html>

for details and deadlines.

Step Three: Get Involved With PILF

Criteria for PILF's summer grant include involvement with our programs and other community service opportunities. So, if you want a public interest grant, it makes sense that you join our fundraising and community service efforts. Sign up to help with our Spring Pledge Drive or participate in a PILF service project if you haven't already.

Step Four: Apply for a Summer Grant from PILF

Students not eligible for federal work study or who wish to supplement work study funding can apply for a \$1,000 PILF grant. The grant is awarded in addition to any other funding the student may receive. All first and second year day students and first, second and third year evening students may apply for the grant. Applications will be available on **MARCH 15th** and will be due on **APRIL 7th**.



Stephanie Unguez

“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.”

PILF Summer Stipend Recipients Share Their Stories

PILF summer stipend recipients have worked in organizations across Los Angeles. We asked past stipend recipients to share some of what they learned at their summer public interest jobs. 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 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 Center for Conflict Resolution, 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.” — Jaime Cartagena, 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, BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES

Fulfill Your Pro Bono Graduation Requirement – PILF Service Projects Continue

PILF works with local public service agencies to provide Loyola students with opportunities in public interest law. Second and third year students can apply their service towards Loyola's public interest graduation requirement. First year students get a chance to engage in real-world advocacy. It is not too late to get involved. **Remember, you must complete your 40 hours of community service prior to starting your last semester at Loyola**

General Relief Advocacy Project

Through GRAP, law students visit Los Angeles County Department of Social Services (DPSS) locations in order to advocate for people applying for general relief and food stamps.

Last year, Loyola had the highest number of student participants in GRAP out of all the law schools in the area.

Advocates must attend a one-hour training session. This year's training sessions were held during Fall semester. The remaining GRAP service dates for this Spring are: **Friday, March 3; Tuesday, April 4 and Friday, April 7.** GRAP will continue next year, so look for information in the Fall on training and service dates. For more information, contact PILF's GRAP coordinator, Remy De La Peza, remy.delapeza@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 learn more about Break the Cycle's work, or get involved as a volunteer, please visit www.breakthecycle.org or attend their next Loyola Law School volunteer training co-sponsored by PILF and the Women's Law Association (day division) on **Tuesday, February 28 from 3:00-5:50pm in Donovan Hall.**



PILF Spring Pledge Drive: Pledge Now, Pay Later

Each year, PILF assists graduating students planning a career in public interest law by awarding grants to help defray bar exam costs. Our Spring Pledge Drive, to be held this year on **April 3d - 7th**, funds this effort as well as our Summer Grant Program.

Second year students working as summer associates are key to the success of our pledge drive. Students can pledge now and pay later—after they receive a summer paycheck. What's more, many law firms match donations so you can double your donation.

Again this year, we will be holding a daily online auction for a lunch with a prominent LA attorney. You could win the chance to hobnob with a high power attorney! Last year, students went to lunch with a number of well-known Loyola alums, including Mark Geragos and Gloria Allred.



Get Involved – Become a PILF Board Member

PILF wants you to join our Board! The PILF Board makes the work of PILF possible, including the Fall auction, service projects, summer stipends, and more. We do it by dividing up the work between a bunch of great board members. We hope you will join us.

Applications for board positions will be available on March 15 at our general meetings (at 12:00pm and 5:00pm) and from the PILF office in Founders Hall 226 thereafter. Until then, please read through the descriptions of the Board positions below and consider which one suits you.

(Co-)Chair of the Board

Plan and implement all of the programs offered by PILF (service projects, Fall auction, Social Justice Speaker Series, Spring Pledge Drive, alumni event and summer funding). The position entails meeting with the Board and sub-committees to brainstorm ideas, set up training programs, informational meetings and events. The chair works closely with the public interest law department, student affairs, student government,

professors and staff. The time commitment varies but is considerable in the weeks before the semesters begin and the weeks leading up to the Fall Auction. However, since most of the programs we offer or sponsor have been done in the past, most of the leg work or contacts are easy to come by. In addition, this position can be held by one or two people.

Treasurer

Prepares budget proposals for the Evening and Day Student Bar Associations and submits reimbursement requests to both SBAs and the cashier's office. Work closely with the Auction Chair, helping to coordinate payment for the Silent and Live Auctions. Manage all payments and donations. Reimburse members' expenses. The time commitment varies, about 15 hours for the auction; 2-3 hours at the beginning of each semester preparing the budgets; and then about 1/2 to 1 hour a week throughout the year processing reimbursements, deposits, etc.

Secretary

Prepares and distributes meeting minutes. Creates newsletter twice a year.

Creates auction program. Assists with flyers for service projects as needed. Time commitment is approximately twenty hours for the auction and five hours per newsletter.

Auction (Co-)Chair

Organizes the Fall Auction. Duties include drafting donation letters, contacting vendors/donors, creating auction subcommittees, maintaining inventory of donated items, and others. Applicants should be able to multi-task and be organized. Time commitment for Fall Auction is significant — up to 20 hours per week during the month of the auction. Preparations begin Summer 2005. We recommend two people share this role.

Fundraising and Publicity (Co-)Chair

Assists the Board Chairs, Auction Chairs and committees in all aspects of fundraising. Oversees the Spring Pledge Drive. Act as the liaison between the PILF Board and 1L representatives. Assure the 1L reps are informed about PILF activities so they can inform their respective sections. Publicity is central to our Fall

Auction, raffle prizes and our Social Justice Speaker Series. Again, we recommend two people share this role.

Service Project Coordinators
Coordinate a PILF service projects. This entails initiating a partnership with a local non-profit legal services provider, recruiting Loyola students to participate, scheduling training, possible supervision of students on-site and answering student questions about the project. Involves lots of contact with clients and public interest attorneys. The time commitment averages out to 1 to 2 hours per week while school is in session.

Speaker Series Chair

The social justice speaker series is a monthly event that brings distinguished professors and community members from the public interest field to speak about issues that are important to our students. Responsibilities include planning topics and potential speakers before each semester, contacting speakers and setting up the event (dates, room request, having it recorded and getting food to the location). The speaker series requires students that are willing to dedicate at least 2 hours a week. Speaker series chairs will work closely with the publicity chair to publicize the

series over email and with flyers.

General Board Member

Assist as needed on various projects. Could entail helping out with the Social Justice Speaker Series, doing decorations for the Fall auction, working with a professor to host a lecture, assisting with publicity for events, among others.

Loyola Law School Students Raised \$11,000 for Katrina Relief – Join the Student Hurricane Network to Provide Legal Services to Victims

This school year, Loyola student organizations worked together to raise \$11,000 for Hurricane Katrina relief. The funds went to Heart to Heart International, an organization operating free health clinics in the region hardest hit by the disaster. PILF thanks all students for their support and generosity!

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, law students from around the country joined

together to form the Student Hurricane Network (SHN). Based in New Orleans, SHN is working to address various legal problems related to the disaster and recovery efforts. Specifically, SHN helps to coordinate volunteer trips to the Gulf Region to assist with criminal justice, housing, immigration and labor issues.

If you are interested in traveling to the Gulf Region to volunteer over Spring Break or during the summer, please

contact Leah Romano, leah.romano@lls.edu. If you'd like to learn more about the SHN and its efforts, visit: www.studenthurricanenetwork.org.

**Get involved
with PILF**

Social Justice Speaker Series Continues

Each semester, PILF brings a range of speakers to discuss their experience in public interest law and offer advice to students who want to pursue careers or pro bono opportunities in that field. PILF's Speaker Series continues this semester. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our next event will take place on **February 22nd**. It will be a panel discussion on the recent employment discrimination suit against Abercrombie & Fitch. Potential speakers include Minah Park, staff attorney for the Asian-Pacific

American Legal Center; Prof. Kimberly West-Faulcon, a Loyola professor who worked on the case, and a plaintiff in the case. Co-sponsored with the Asian Pacific-American Law Students Association. And, of course, delicious tamales will be served!

Watch your email inbox for announcement for future Social Justice Speaker Series events in March and April. All events take place at noon unless otherwise indicated. As always, food will be served.



Fall Auction a Success!

The 2005 PILF Fall Auction and Casino Night, celebrating a "Night at the Moulin Rouge" was a great success! We raised over **\$35,500**. The money will help fund students working in public interest this summer. (See information on page 1.) Thanks very much to all who donated items, volunteered their time, joined us at the auction and bought raffle tickets.

Thanks again for your support.!



PILF to Honor Alumni

In April, PILF host its annual reception and awards event, honoring two distinguished attorneys for their efforts in the public interest at our annual alumni awards event. We honor one former student who works for a non-profit firm and one who has gone into private practice but has made a significant contribution through pro bono service. Watch your email account for more information on this event.