

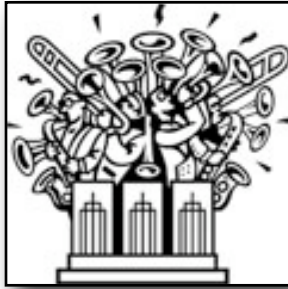
FALL NEWSLETTER

Puttin' On The Ritz

PILF 15th Annual Fall Auction Night

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, October 20th is PILF's annual auction. This year's theme is "Puttin' On the Ritz" and will feature a casino, a live swing band, silent and live auctions, an open bar, and a catered dinner. The event will take place the evening of Saturday, October 20th, 6-11 p.m..



PILF's annual auction raises substantial funds for its public interest stipends for Loyola students working in public interest position during the summer, bar stipends for students committed to public interest work, and ongoing PILF-sponsored projects. The auction is PILF's biggest and most successful fundraiser and one of the largest student events at Loyola.

PILF is currently seeking donations for the auction as well as volunteers for the event. In the past donations have ranged from an evening with a Loyola professor to a beautiful beach cruiser to free surfing lessons. For information on donations or volunteer opportunities, please contact Kyle Tracy at auction@pilf.org or visit our website at www.pilf.org. Tickets on sale soon!

Get Involved With GRAP

What is GRAP? GRAP stands for the General Relief Advocacy Project and is PILF's most successful direct service project to the community. GRAP affords students a tangible opportunity to put their knowledge to practical use while also helping the community. Upper division students can also receive Pro-Bono credit.

What do you do? Through GRAP, law students visit Los Angeles County Department of Social Services (DPSS) locations to advocate for applicants of general relief and food stamps. GRAP advocates must attend a one-hour training session and approximately one DPSS trip per month.

For more information contact, nichole.e.shuck@lls.edu.

Upcoming Events

September 5th, 5-7 p.m.
GRAP Training - Student Lounge

September 11th, 5-6 p.m.
Workers' Rights Project with
Neighborhood Legal Services

September 12th, TBA
Immigration/Deportation Post 9/11
With Local Attorney Stacy Tolchin

September 12th, 5-6 p.m.
GRAP Training Make-Up
Tables in Front of Girardi

September 14th, 1-6 p.m.
GRAP outing - Downtown Public
Benefits Office

October 5th, TBA
GRAP Training

October 19th, TBA
PILF Volunteer Opportunity,
Auction Set-up

October 20th, 6-11 p.m.
PILF Fall Auction

November 7th, 5-6 p.m.
Domestic Violence Clinic with
LAFLA, David Ackerly

November 9th, TBA
GRAP Training

January 23 & February 20th
Service Training, Organization TBA

Other Upcoming Activities

* Loyola Professor Panel on public
interest work (John Nockleby,
Alexandra Natapoff, and Kathleen
Kim)

* Mentor/Mentee Happy Hour

* Brown Bag Lunch Events with

PILF Mentor Program

The PILF Mentor program was designed to make life as a 1L a little less stressful. First year students who sign up for the program will be matched, according to areas of experience and interest, with a second or third year PILF member and Loyola student willing to meet and share advice.

PILF mentors can help you navigate finding a summer internship as well as give you advice about what professors to take for next year or how to handle the professors you already have. The mentor program is a great way to get to know second and third year students and an opportunity to get some of your questions about law school answered. For more information, please contact, amy.chau@lls.edu.

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 field. 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 worked for the California Women’s Law Center as their legal intern. We filed Title IX class action suits against local high school districts, and did policy research on women’s health issues and domestic violence.” Lauren Danielson, CA WOMEN’S LAW CENTER.

“I worked at Public Counsel on the Homelessness Prevention Law Project (HPLP) and the Appellate Law Program. My work in the HPLP consisted of training and supervising summer associates from various law firms to advocate on behalf of homeless clients in various Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) offices around Los Angeles County. Our main focus was to help clients obtain and maintain General Relief and Food Stamps. My work for the Appellate Law Program consisted of reviewing the cases of indigent civil litigants who came into the self-help clinic at the court of appeals and determine whether or not they had a case that should be placed with a pro-bono attorney.” Christine Aros,

PUBLIC COUNSEL.

How did the PILF summer stipend help you?

“It allowed me to take this job with a public interest foundation rather than looking for a corporate position that would pay.” Lauren Danielson, CA WOMEN’S LAW CENTER.

“Public Counsel is the largest pro-bono organization in the nation and depends largely on volunteers and therefore cannot pay summer clerks because they do not charge any of their clients. The PILF summer stipend helped me to pay my rent and other expenses so that I could take this position over the summer.” Christine Aros, PUBLIC COUNSEL.

What did you learn from your public interest experience?

“I learned how to handle several cases at once. At first it was a little difficult to keep all the clients in line but eventually it became easier because I got to know them better and gain an appreciation for the hardships they go through. I think I also became a much more effective researcher. I often had to write a memo that would be due in one day or even one hour because of the time restraints we had to work with, so even if the memo wasn’t perfectly written, I tried my best to at least answer the questions accurately with supporting evidence.” Frances Ma, HIV and AIDS LEGAL SERVICE (HALSA).

“I learned how to be an advocate for clients and fight for the rights of peo-

ple who are often brushed aside and are rarely listened to or given any respect.” Christine Aros, PUBLIC COUNSEL.

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

“Do it! Most likely, students will come out of law school with debt and therefore will want to work for the high paying firms that will help them pay off that debt, so really the only chance someone has to have the public interest experience is their first summer of law school. The experience will help you decide if that is the path you want to take and more importantly, you will actually get hands on experience that you wouldn’t get at a law firm necessarily. If you’re interested in public interest, remember that you can still do it while paying off debt and enjoy it.” Frances Ma, HIV and AIDS LEGAL SERVICE (HALSA).

“My advice is to ‘try everything.’ Be open to new experiences and job opportunities because it is so important to have a variety of experiences. Each experience leads to increased knowledge and knowledge is the best tool in law. Get involved in PILF. I have found PILF to be a great support system for me because it has provided continual emotional support as well as a breadth of knowledge in a variety of different public interest fields. And of course, follow your passion! Nothing is more satisfying than being happy! Everything else will work itself out!” Renee DeLellis, PILF CO-CHAIR.

Introducing the PILF Journal

Created by law students from Loyola and UCLA, the Public Interest Law Foundation Journal is open to participation and submissions from all law schools in the Los Angeles area. This collaboration is intended to bring together diverse student editors and staff with various goals, and to provide a forum that is relevant to practitioners and scholars in the public interest community. The Journal's purpose is to foster innovative ideas for socio-economic justice and change, to promote the issues of underrepresented communities, and to support sustainable policy and laws which put human rights and dignity first.

The PILF Journal is non-partisan, and welcomes vigorous dissent and strong opinions in all areas of the law.

Mock Job Interviews for First Year Students

Nervous about job searching and interviewing for positions next summer? PILF offers a unique program to help you prepare for your interviews. First year students can enroll in the mock interview program which allows them to practice their interviewing skills with a second or third year law student. Participating first years will receive valuable feedback on their interviewing strengths and weaknesses and will feel more prepared for the big day. For more information, contact pilf@lls.edu.

Get Involved!

PILF brings various public interest organizations to Loyola campus as part of its Service Training program. This year several organizations are already scheduled to visit the Loyola campus, including Neighborhood Legal Services and the Legal Aid Foundation Los Angeles (LAFLA). If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, attend a volunteer training hosted by PILF. Contact cassie.palmer@lls.edu for more information.

Other ways to become involved in PILF include, acting a PILF section representative, collecting donations for the PILF silent auction, or volunteering at the "Puttin' On The Ritz" event. PILF section representatives help PILF by making announcements in class, handing out flyers and generally acting as the liaison between PILF and the students in the section. There are plenty of ways to become involved!

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