

PRO BONO INITIATIVE PROGRAM

PILI is a resource for Illinois law firms and corporations developing or enhancing pro bono programs. This pro bono consulting program fosters business cultures and legal careers that feature a commitment to public interest law and pro bono work.

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.

By cultivating best practices, ensuring effective communication and serving as a clearinghouse for pro bono issues, PILI enhances the scope and quantity of pro bono work in Illinois for those who lack access to justice.

PILI is an invaluable resource in the promotion of public interest law in Illinois. The Graduate Fellowship Program provides a terrific "portal of entry" for our new lawyers into the public interest community. PILI's pro bono seminars are a great opportunity for law firm and public interest organizations to exchange ideas on how they can work together better. And PILI has been a great ally for me in working with our client corporate law departments in building their pro bono programs in partnership with us.

JONATHAN BAUM

*Director of Pro Bono Services
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP*

Exelon Corporation is a proud supporter of PILI. Several of our lawyers are PILI Alumni so we know first-hand about the amazing work PILI does in not only introducing young lawyers to the public interest world, but also nurturing a desire and commitment to continue the good work as we progress in our legal careers.

LASHONDA A. HUNT

*Assistant General Counsel &
Pro Bono Coordinator
Exelon Corporation*

ABOUT US

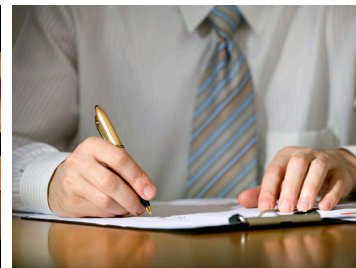
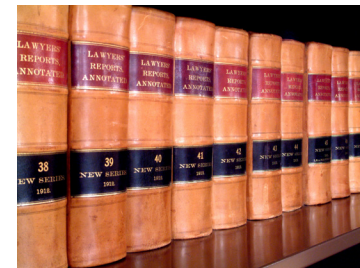
Since its founding in 1977, PILI has cultivated a lifelong commitment to public interest law by creating opportunities for law students and attorneys to provide public interest and pro bono work in Illinois.

At every stage in the life cycle of a legal career, PILI guides attorneys in actualizing their professional responsibilities and personal commitments to equal access to justice through a continuum of public interest law and pro bono opportunities. PILI's programs first capture emerging lawyers when they are law students and new law school graduates, and then extend into legal practice to reach new associates, seasoned lawyers, and senior attorneys working in every sector of the legal community – private, academic, government and nonprofit.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW INITIATIVE (PILI)

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CULTIVATING A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC INTEREST LAW



PILI PUBLIC
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LAW STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Each summer, PILI funds dozens of 400-hour internships for first and second-year law students from across the country to work at public interest law agencies in the Chicago area. PILI also offers a limited number of 200-hour school year internships for Chicago area law students.

Many PILI Interns provide low-income and disenfranchised clients with critically needed legal assistance. Other PILI Interns conduct advocacy, policy-based work or impact litigation that enhances the health, safety and welfare of the disenfranchised. All PILI Interns gain valuable work experience that distinguishes their education and ultimately their careers.

PILI raises the funds necessary for each agency to pay its PILI Interns, ensures quality supervision by experienced agency lawyers, provides an educational seminar series, hosts social events and offers networking opportunities.

Through PILI Internships, law students 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.

By connecting students with unique and engaging public interest opportunities, the PILI program represents an important moment in the careers of many law students. This summer's experience will certainly inform my practice as an attorney.

JONATHAN RHODES

Former PILI Intern at Citizen Advocacy Center

I thought the PILI Fellowship was a wonderful learning and life experience. The experience solidified my desire to continue to serve the public interest in some aspect throughout my legal career.

ANNE WASILCHIK

Former PILI Fellow at Chicago Legal Clinic

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

PILI offers new law school graduates the opportunity to work 300 hours during the summer after their graduation at one of more than 50 public interest law agencies.

PILI Fellowships provide the scheduling flexibility to allow Fellows to participate in a formal bar review course and take the bar exam while gaining hands-on legal experience.

Nearly two dozen Chicago law firms sponsor PILI Fellows, paying the salaries of their new associates to work at public interest law agencies. Like Interns, Fellows benefit from quality supervision by agency lawyers, an educational seminar series, and social and networking events.

Through PILI Fellowships, new law school graduates develop important practical skills, forge a professional network within the Illinois legal community and provide critically needed legal assistance to public interest law agencies and their clients.



ALUMNI PROGRAM

Today, over 3,000 law students and graduates have participated in PILI's Internship and Fellowship Programs. These public interest lawyers span the globe and the profession; from law firm and corporate attorneys, to members of the judiciary and government sector, to members of the public interest law and higher education communities.

The Alumni Program maintains the connection between these public interest lawyers, PILI and the public interest law community. Relevant programming, social and networking opportunities and mentoring opportunities are offered to Alumni.

I am thankful for my PILI experience as it introduce me to Chicago's dynamic public interest community and helped to solidify my commitment to serving the underserved.

AMY ZIMMERMAN

PILI Alumni

EXTENDED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

PILI encourages law firms to provide the opportunity for firm attorneys — whether new associates or seasoned attorneys — to be placed at a public interest law organization for an extended period of time in a rotation or fellowship program. PILI provides assistance to firms in developing such programs and in identifying public interest law organizations to host their attorneys.