

Participating Agencies

There are currently 60 public interest law agencies approved to host PILI Fellows - view the full list on our website at www.pili.org/fellowships. PILI may approve other agencies to host Fellows on a case-by-case basis. Contact us directly to learn more about this option.

Participating Law Firms

Over a dozen major Chicago-area law firms sponsor PILI Fellows each year. Contact us or get in touch with your firm's recruitment coordinator to see if your firm sponsors PILI Fellows.

How to apply:

1. Confirm that your law firm participates in the PILI Graduate Fellowship Program.
2. Visit our website to read about the participating agencies and to see position descriptions for each agency.
3. Apply to up to 10 agencies through our website starting on October 15th.
4. Interview directly with the agencies. Agencies select from among their applicants who they want to interview and ultimately hire.
5. Confirm your hire as a Graduate Fellow with PILI.

Visit www.pili.org/fellowships to learn more about agencies, placements and how to apply.

“The PILI Fellowship taught me so much about what it means to be a lawyer. This is the start of my life-long commitment to public service.”

- Recent PILI Fellow

About PILI

PILI engages, inspires and empowers those advancing equal access to justice through the following programs:

PILI's **Law Student Internship** and **Graduate Fellowship Programs** place law students and recent law school graduates at public interest law organizations, with PILI providing supplemental educational, networking and mentoring opportunities.

Our **Alumni Network** builds and maintains the connection between past PILI Interns and Fellows and the public interest law community through educational, networking and leadership opportunities.

Our **Pro Bono Program** works to increase the availability of pro bono legal help for those who cannot afford an attorney in Illinois by developing innovative pro bono opportunities, offering pro bono programming and resources, cultivating best practices, and celebrating the life-changing pro bono performed throughout the state.

Through these programs, we are working towards making equal access to justice a reality through a legal community with a deeply rooted culture of service, where pro bono and public interest law engagement is optimized to best serve people, families and communities in need.

Questions? Need more information?

Visit our website at www.pili.org
or contact us at bpage@pili.org or 312-832-5127.



Graduate Fellowship Program

About PILI's Fellowship Program

PILI's Graduate Fellowship Program places new associates from Chicago law firms at public interest law agencies in Illinois, where they are typically paid by their hiring firm to work for 300 hours between graduation and joining the firm.

PILI ensures quality supervision by experienced attorneys and provides extra educational, networking and advising opportunities. We are currently offering Fellowship placements at 60 participating agencies throughout Illinois. You can review the list of participating agencies online.

PILI Fellows have a competitive edge when they start at their firms. While studying for the bar, they develop lawyering skills, build professional networks, and gain real world experience outside of law school. PILI Fellows are also connected to pro bono from the very beginning of their careers, allowing them to maintain a pro bono practice after joining their firms.

Work Experience

PILI Fellows work on a wide and diverse range of issues depending on the agency where they serve. In addition to direct client services, PILI Fellows also work on transactional matters such as policy development and analysis, advocacy, impact litigation and more.

Here's a look at the kind of work PILI Fellows have done recently:

- worked on a direct appeal for a client on death row;
- assisted at an adult guardianship help desk, drafting temporary guardianship documents, as well as wills, living wills and powers of attorney for low-income seniors;
- helped incorporate new small businesses and nonprofit organizations; and
- prepped cases for trial, facilitated plea agreements, and assisted with arraignments.

Advising

PILI offers the opportunity for Fellows to be placed with an advisor from PILI's Board of Directors or Alumni Network for career guidance, networking inroads and a personal introduction to the Illinois legal community. This is a chance to get connected and start building your professional network from the beginning of your legal career.

Education

As a PILI Fellow, your education does not just happen at your agency. PILI organizes a series of weekly educational seminars for Fellows over the summer, covering a range of hard skills and substantive law topics related to public interest law and pro bono, as well as career development issues for new lawyers interested in pro bono.

Community

When you become a PILI Fellow, you join a class of over 100 law students and recent graduates serving the public interest through PILI that year. You also become part of a distinguished group of nearly 4,000 law students and lawyers who have been PILI Law Student Interns or Graduate Fellows since PILI was founded in 1977. With PILI's Alumni Network, you can stay connected to PILI throughout your career through educational, networking, service and leadership opportunities.



What about the bar exam?

PILI Fellows regularly report that they have adequate time to study. In fact, many say that their Fellowship experience adds a welcome structure to this bar study period. Agencies hosting PILI Fellows are flexible with Fellows' schedules to ensure ample bar study time. PILI Fellows typically register for the afternoon or evening bar review class so they can work in the morning and attend PILI's lunchtime educational programs too.



“My PILI Fellowship was a great experience and totally doable while studying for the bar. I learned practical skills I never learned in law school”

- Recent PILI Fellow

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