

**Cultivating a Lifelong Commitment to Public Interest Law**



The entire Chicago legal community lost a dear friend when 94-year old Florence E. Miller passed away in 2008. A 1942 graduate of the John Marshall Law School, Florence was well known in the international trademark world, practicing intellectual property law for many years with Kimberly-Clark Corp., and with Brinks, Hofer, Gilson and Lione. A strong advocate for women in the profession and for her commitment to public interest law, Florence named PILI as one of the beneficiaries of her estate and PILI established the Florence E. Miller Endowment Fund.

In this troubling economic climate, the Illinois community needs PILI more than ever. We are prepared to meet that need through our portfolio of diverse programs. However, we cannot face these challenges alone. A gift to PILI signals a commitment to our organization's future and to the thousands of lives it enriches.

**Your contribution to PILI is a testament to the belief that access to justice is a basic human right.**

Please consider supporting our mission by making a tax-deductible gift, sponsoring a named PILI Internship, or considering us in your estate plans.

For more information on ways you can help PILI cultivate lifelong commitments to public interest law, please contact **Alex Kliner** at [akliner@pili-law.org](mailto:akliner@pili-law.org) or by calling 312-832-5130.

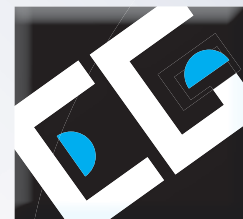
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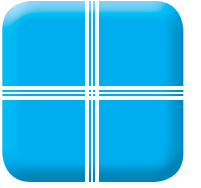
*designed. packaged. solved.*

**The PILI 2009 Annual Report was designed by Eric Guerrero.**

For inquiries please contact: [eric@eartg.net](mailto:eric@eartg.net)



# 2009 Annual Report



**Message from the President and Executive Director**

This year's economic challenges served as a stark reminder to the Chicago legal community that poverty is inextricably linked to numerous health, safety, and social welfare legal issues. The legal aid and public interest law sectors of our profession have worked diligently and often heroically to give poor, low income and underserved people access to justice. They have not done it alone. Strong partners in this pursuit of equal access to justice include: individual attorneys, law firms, corporate legal departments, foundations, law schools, and individual donors— all working tirelessly, collaboratively and cooperatively toward this goal.

This is our opportunity to thank our many partners, all of whom have been instrumental in our ability to attempt to meet the ongoing challenges. Since December 2003, the law firm of Foley & Lardner LLP has supported PILI with the most generous of in-kind donations: office space for its staff. For more than six years, PILI has realized annual savings of more than \$40,000. This in-kind gift has financed the stipends of fifty PILI summer interns at PILI participating Agencies. We are immensely grateful to Foley & Lardner, and to the generosity and hospitality of its attorneys and staff. We are also grateful to the DePaul College of Law, which has for countless summers, allowed PILI use its classrooms for summer luncheon seminars.



Susan J. Curry, Executive Director and Stephen D. Libowsky, President PILI Board of Directors (L to R)

In May 2009, PILI, for the first time, received the proceeds of an incredibly generous testamentary gift. Florence Miller, one of our community's icons who died the previous year at the age of 94, bequeathed to PILI funds sufficient to allow us to establish a permanent endowment fund, the income of which will support multiple public interest law student internships every year. With Florence's death, PILI and the Chicago legal community lost a dear friend and a strong advocate for public interest law and for women in the profession. We are so grateful for this lasting contribution to the work and mission of PILI.

On the following pages, PILI highlights and acknowledges the contributions of our many friends old and new, steadfast supporters, and collaborating work partners. We thank all of you for your ongoing commitment to PILI. Your contributions of time, expertise, collaboration, and dollars profoundly affect our work and are instrumental to our success. To those new members of the legal community and those considering a closer working partnership with us, we invite you to acquaint or reacquaint yourselves with the Public Interest Law Initiative. Join us as we strive to encourage, engage and empower our legal profession in our mutual pursuit of equal access to justice.

We look forward to continuing our established partnerships, and to forming new ones as we explore new ideas and opportunities in 2010 and beyond.

**Stephen D. Libowsky**  
Howrey LLP  
President, PILI Board of Directors

**Susan J. Curry**  
Executive Director, PILI

PILI cultivates a lifelong commitment to public interest law by creating opportunities for law students and lawyers to perform public interest law and pro bono legal activities in service to the poor and under-represented

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Life Span Center for Legal Services and Advocacy
Loyola University Community Law Center Business Law Clinic and Childlaw Clinic
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National Immigrant Justice Center
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Office of the Illinois Governor, Office of General Counsel
Prairie State Legal Services
Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU
Sargent Shriver National Center of Poverty Law
US Department of Health & Human Services, Office of the General Counsel & Office of Civil Rights
Working Hands Legal Clinic

Fiscal Year 2009 Events

2008 Annual Awards Luncheon

Each year PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon gathers more than 450 members of the legal community to celebrate the best aspects of the profession. It is a forum to recognize those performing remarkable public interest and pro bono work. The Luncheon features several awards to acknowledge those whose work epitomizes the ideal of access to justice for all.

The 2008 PILI Annual Awards Luncheon was held on Thursday, December 4 at the Fairmont Hotel in Chicago, IL.

Distinguished Public Service Award

Honors an individual whose commitment to public interest work has shaped a career dedicated to service  
*Honorable Mary Ann G. McMorrow (Ret.)*

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Recognizes a former PILI Intern and Fellow for outstanding contributions of public interest law and pro bono work  
*Charles Perez Golbert & Laurie A. Wardell*

Pro Bono Initiative Award

Acknowledges a single organization for exemplary pro bono work in the community  
*Caterpillar, Inc.*

PILI's most recent Annual Awards Luncheon was held December 3rd, 2009 at the Fairmont Hotel.

Congratulations to the following award recipients:

**Distinguished Public Service Award:** *Thomas F. Geraghty*  
**Distinguished Alumni Awards:** *Elizabeth Gibbons Lewis & Jesus Perez*  
**Pro Bono Initiative Award:** *Kirkland & Ellis LLP*

2009 Annual "Celebrating Pro Bono" Reception

"Celebrating Pro Bono" is an evening forum for PILI Interns and Fellows, and colleagues from law schools, law firms, corporate legal departments, and legal aid agencies to celebrate pro bono relationships and successes. Held annually, this reception enables members of the legal community to come together to network, share pro bono experiences, and support the culture of service upheld through pro bono work.

PILI's 2009 Annual "Celebrating Pro Bono" Reception was held on Thursday, June 11th at the Harold Washington Library's Winter Garden Room. This year's reception marked the 10th Anniversary of PILI's establishment of its Pro Bono Initiative. Illinois Appellate Court Justice Sheila O'Brien was the distinguished guest and welcoming speaker.



Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice **Thomas R. Fitzgerald** gives keynote address at the 2008 PILI Annual Awards Luncheon



Caterpillar Inc's **Chris Dekker** accepts the PILI Pro Bono Initiative Award from **Allegra Rich**, Seyfarth Shaw LLP at the 2008 PILI Annual Awards Luncheon



Illinois Appellate Court Justice, **Sheila M. O'Brien** provides keynote remarks at the 2009 Annual "Celebrating Pro Bono" Reception

## Thank You for Helping Make Access to Justice Possible

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PILI thanks the law firm of Foley & Lardner LLP for its very generous in-kind donation of office space.

## Programs and Achievements

### PILI's Programs

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.

### Law Student Internship & Graduate Fellowship 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. 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.

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. 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.

Other Interns and Fellows conducted legal work on behalf of groups and/or in relation to policy matters, including advocacy, public education, policy development/analysis, or other impact-related work. Their efforts impacted the lives of thousands of individuals, groups, and communities. A unique combination of issues is addressed each year, as PILI Interns and Fellows help host agencies respond to emerging macro-level matters and critical needs of clients.

#### FY2009 Intern and Fellow – Impact Work Examples

- Public and supportive housing research
- Drafting impact letters on behalf of a variety of state agencies
- Public assistance policies
- Advocacy on behalf of English Language Learners in CPS
- Organizing a panel on the Freedom of Information Act

To supplement the Work Experience component of PILI's Intern and Fellowship programs, the Seminar component offered PILI Interns and Fellows a valuable series of 10 presentations dealing with substantive law and career topics. In total, 32 attorneys from all sectors of the legal community— private, government and nonprofit—addressed the 2009 class of Interns and Fellows during the Seminar series.

With the Advisor component of PILI's Internship and Fellowship programs, PILI matched twenty-three student interns with PILI board members or alumni for career guidance, and a personal introduction to Chicago's legal community and the role of public interest law and pro bono work in a legal career.

*"At the beginning of the summer, I wanted a PILI internship because it was an opportunity to do some good as a law student while acquiring and sharpening my legal skill set. After ten weeks, I can say that I am a more confident, independent legal thinker."*

– **Thomas Vitale**, Michigan State 2L at Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law



Cook County Public Guardian, **Robert Harris**, addresses the 2009 class of PILI Interns and Fellows at the Summer Educational Kickoff Luncheon

### FY2009 Intern and Fellow Statistics—Direct Service

Summer & School Year INTERNS: 56
Summer & School Year FELLOWS: 68
Class Total: INTERNS & FELLOWS: 124
Work Component HOURS: 42,800
CLIENTS Receiving Direct Legal Services: 5,722 (1,551 clients + 4,171 brief service/advocacy)

### 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.

During the 2009 fiscal year, PILI organized three alumni programs. Each program had a topical panel discussion followed by an informal networking reception. On November 12, 2008, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP hosted the program entitled "Serving on a Board of Directors." PILI compiled and distributed a listing of board service opportunities at PILI's Participating Agencies. On April 28, 2009, Howrey LLP hosted a program entitled, "The Path to a Career in the Public Interest Law Sector." And finally, on July 23, 2009, Jenner & Block hosted a program entitled, "The Current Economy's Impact on the Public Interest Law Landscape." In addition to PILI's Alumni, supervisors from PILI's Participating Agencies also attended.

### Extended Placement Program

In response to the economic crisis and its impact on the legal profession, PILI worked in conjunction with other community organizations to develop and launch an "Extended Placement Program," through which we have directly placed over 60 Extended Placement Attorneys. PILI had previously advised law firm offices in Chicago on the development of rotational or secondment placements of first-year associates for a year-long public interest law placement. In FY2009, PILI substantially expanded and evolved this placement assistance for new attorneys who had their law firm offers deferred or revoked, as well as attorneys who were furloughed or part of reductions in force (RIFs) at their firms.

### Pro Bono Initiative Program

Through its recently established Recognition Team, PILI submitted nominations for pro bono awards to the Illinois State Bar Association (Deere & Company) and the American Bar Association (Federal Government Pro Bono Program), both of which were selected as award recipients. In addition, PILI organized two roundtable discussions for the state's corporate pro bono leaders, with the second program focusing on pro bono outside of Cook County. PILI also helped Chicago corporate leaders plan an event to spotlight a variety of public interest law agencies and their related pro bono opportunities at the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC-Chicago) Annual Dinner.

PILI, in conjunction with the Chicago Bar Foundation, hosted a Pro Bono Forum for firm, corporate, agency and law school pro bono leaders.



Members of all sectors of the Illinois legal community gather to celebrate pro bono relationships and share stories and successes at PILI's 2009 Annual "Celebrating Pro Bono" Reception

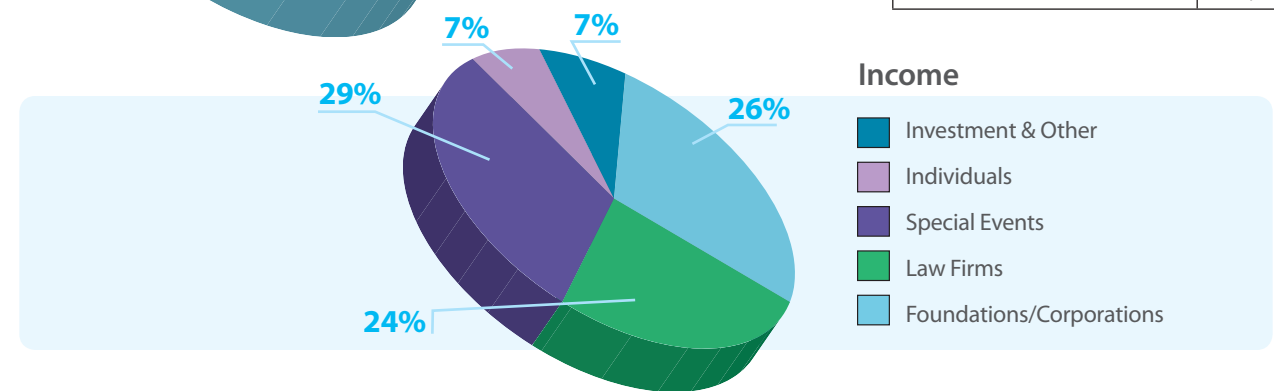
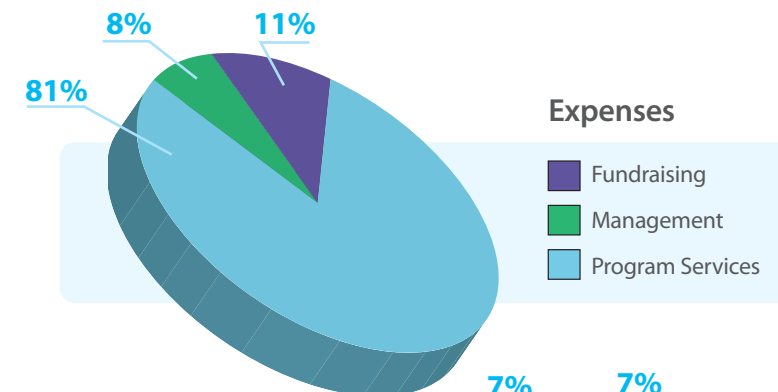
This year PILI also launched the Law School Pro Bono & Public Interest Law Roundtable to bring together law school pro bono and public interest law faculty and staff from around Illinois. Every law school in the state sent a representative to the program as did several schools that feed into the Illinois legal market.

PILI has been working with Illinois Legal Aid Online to explore and develop an online matching system that will connect law students, paralegals and lawyers from around the state to work on pro bono matters and for purposes of mentoring new or inexperienced pro bono practitioners. PILI is thrilled to announce that the system is now in the development phase and is expected to be launched as part of [www.IllinoisProBono.org](http://www.IllinoisProBono.org) in Summer 2010.

### Financial Review

#### Audited Income and Expense Report

Fiscal Year 2009 (September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009)



Income	
Law Firms	\$158,100
Foundations/Corporations	\$171,875
Annual Award Luncheon	\$137,585
Board & Individual Contributions	\$47,300
PBI Event	\$53,350
Investment Income	\$43,457
In-Kind Support	\$44,000
Other	\$23
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$655,690</b>
Endowment Contributions	\$647,521

Income	
Investment & Other	
Individuals	
Special Events	
Law Firms	
Foundations/Corporations	

Our gratitude to the following donors who have generously funded Named Internships designated in tribute to friends and colleagues, or to target a specific issue, legal need, or legal service provider.

**George Overton Memorial Internship** at the Environmental Law & Policy Center  
(funded by Wildman Harrold Allen & Dixon LLP & Jane Overton)

**Union League Civic & Arts Foundation Internship** at Equip for Equality  
(funded by the Union League Civic & Arts Foundation)

**Kimball & Karen Anderson Internships** at the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago and at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago  
(funded by Karen & Kimball Anderson)

**Howrey HELPS Internships** at the National Immigrant Justice Center and at The Citizen Advocacy Center  
(funded by Howrey LLP)

**Roslyn Lieb Internship** at MALDEF  
(funded by the PILI Board of Directors)

**Jeff Stone Internship** at Equip for Equality  
(funded by the Chicago Bar Foundation)

**Alfred C. Tisdahl, Jr. Internship** at Access Living  
(funded by the Francis Beidler Foundation)

Expenses	
Personnel (salary, tax, benefits)	\$313,101
Internship Grants/Education Program	\$187,119
Special Events	\$40,480
Professional Fees (audit, payroll)	\$5,985
Printing & Publications	\$5,849
Postage/Delivery	\$2,888
Office Expenses (insurance, equipment)	\$5,810
Telephone & Internet	\$3,255
Occupancy	\$44,000
Conferences, Travel & Meetings	\$5,805
Dues & Subscriptions	\$3,191
Depreciation	\$519
Miscellaneous	\$1,468
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$619,470</b>