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Loyola Law School

Public Interest Newsletter

Issue #1 – February 2001

SUMMER GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE!

What are your employment plans for the Summer? Don't know? Have a Public Interest job lined up? No?

Well you're in luck! The Public Interest Law Department has applications available for the SPIEP and PILF Summer Grants.

SPIEP (Summer Public Interest Employment Program) is Loyola Law School's federal work study program that supports 70 students (60 in public interest, 10 in government positions) working at local nonprofit and government agencies.

PILF grant is funded by the student run Public Interest Law foundation. This year PILF will be providing six grants to students wishing to work in public interest (no government positions will be considered for PILF funding).

The deadlines to apply for both grants is March 2, 2001, to turn in your financial aid application and March 23, 2001 to turn in the original application and 6 copies of the completed application to the Financial Aid office by 4:00 p.m.

Students are advised to begin sending out resumes and cover letters to potential summer employers now.

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Contributions By:

Felita Jones, Gary Williams, Carol Oh Basile, San Fernando Neighborhood Legal Services, Inner City Law Center, Public Counsel, Bridget Klink, and Professor Hobbs

ADOPTION DAY!

The Loyola Women's Roundtable in conjunction with the Law School's Public Interest Department and Public Counsel will sponsor this event, in which Loyola Law School students are paired with Loyola alumni attorneys to work together on an approved adoption case. Public Counsel provides support for this program in the form of training, materials, and ongoing guidance throughout the process. Law students as well as alumni attorneys are needed. To finalize the adoptions, all participants will be invited to attend a special Loyola Adoption Day at the Courthouse.

Wondering why you should participate in Adoption Day? Not only is this a great opportunity to be a part of one of those "feel good, everybody wins" situations, it is also a chance for alumni and students to come together to make a difference in our community. For students, any hours spent on this project will be credited towards the pro bono requirement. Participating attorneys may receive MCLE credit. Note: First-year law students are eligible to participate in Adoption Day, however, first-year's are not allowed to complete their pro bono requirement during their first year.

When: Saturday, February 10, 2001

Where: Loyola Law School (Merrifield Hall)

Time: Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

For more information, please contact Felita Jones, Public Interest Law Coordinator at 213/736-1059, or visit the Public Interest Law Department (Burns 212).

RSVP by Monday, February 5, 2001.

The National Association for Public Interest Law
presents its

2001 Student Leadership Retreat
March 9-11, 2001

For up-to-date information visit www.napil.org

CIVIL RIGHTS LITIGATION CLINIC

Karl Manheim and Gary Williams will teach the Civil Rights Litigation Clinic course in the 2001-2002 academic year. During the fall semester, students take a four unit course on civil rights law and advocacy. Two hours of class time per week are devoted to a seminar on civil rights law. The class studies the NAACP litigation strategy that culminated Brown v. Board of Education decision, beginning with an examination of the legal and social climate the NAACP was facing when it devised the litigation strategy that culminated the Brown decision.

Students also read and discuss cases developing key civil rights theories in the areas of women's rights, gays and lesbian rights, affirmative action, economic discrimination and the rights of ethnic minorities. Classroom discussion considers the current state of the law in each area, and critiques of the litigation strategies that have generated that law. In each area the class covers political and social theory in addition to legal theory. The course also features prominent Los Angeles area civil rights litigators who discuss the strategic, sociological and ethical aspects of their practice and their cases.

An average of two hours of class time per week are devoted to skills training. The skills covered during this portion of the course include case investigation (client interviewing, fact investigation, and client counseling), pleading practice (drafting pleadings and crafting case theories), law and motion practice (drafting supporting declarations for preliminary injunctions), and discovery practice (drafting and answering interrogatories, taking and defending depositions). Students are also trained to identify and resolve ethical issues that can arise in a public interest practice.

In the final seminar project students combine the skills studied during the semester to construct a case management plan for a present day civil rights controversy. The final project utilizes skills similar to those tested by the performance section of the California Bar Examination. Completion of the fall seminar satisfies Loyola's writing and breadth requirements.

CONT'D CIVIL RIGHTS LITIGATION CLINIC

After successful completion of the fall seminar, students enroll in the 4-unit spring clinic. Each student will be placed in a civil rights or civil liberties litigation organization, where they participate in the day-to-day work of the office. The student's work during the spring semester will be monitored through journal reports and consultations with Gary Williams. Spring semester placements for 2001 were made with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California, the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Southern California Office, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, the Inner City Law Center, the California Women's Law Center, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. Additional placement opportunities may be added for the upcoming school year.

In February, Professors Williams, Manheim and Jennifer Freisen will announce the interview process for applying for the 2001-02 class (enrollment is limited to 20 students). The announcement will appear in this newsletter, and will be posted on the bulletin board located outside of Faculty Support on the third floor of the Burns Building.

For more information, contact Gary Williams (1090), Jennifer Freisen (1072), or Karl Manheim (1106).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

For Domestic Violence Clinics in San Fernando, Van Nuys, Burbank and Newhall Courthouses.

Must volunteer at least one morning a week 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., for at least three months. Afternoon hours available 12-2:30 p.m.

Volunteer duties include interviewing victims of domestic violence and assisting them to obtain restraining orders through the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the Family Law Act. Volunteers complete all necessary court forms including victim's declarations.

Training → January 31, 2001 (1:00 – 4:30 p.m.)

For more information contact **Sharley Allen**, San Fernando Neighborhood Legal Services, (818) 834-7506.

WHO IS CAROL OH BASILE?

Carol Oh Basile is the executive attorney of the Neighborhood Legal Center, established in 1999. Carol was the recipient of the 1999 Loyola Law School Public Interest Post-Graduate Fellowship.

Recently the Public Interest Law Department interviewed Carol and here's what she had to say.

Q. What do you feel has made the NLC such a successful and promising organization?

A. The Neighborhood Legal Center is meeting needs that would otherwise not be met. NLC provides legal advice and representation to low income, working families who would otherwise be unable to access legal services. Our organization is relevant to the community.

Q. What in your opinion do you feel is the greatest need for the public interest community?

A. As a whole, the public interest community needs more financial resources, which could be provided through law schools and the corporate community, to fund more public interest lawyers. Also, a major barrier to entry for would-be public interest lawyers is student debt. Additional funds could be applied to debt forgiveness and loan reduction for new public interest lawyers.

Q. Why did you decide to become a public interest lawyer?

A. I became a public interest lawyer because I wanted to share the love of Christ and God's concern for justice in a way that would meet tangible needs. While in law school I had several public interest externships. I learned that providing legal help can be an important part of bringing about radical change for the better of others' lives. For me, Loyola Law School's Post-Graduate Public Interest Fellowship served as a catalyst in starting NLC.

CONT'D WHO IS CAROL OH BASILE?

Q. What is in the NLC's future?

A. We will continue to focus on matters that especially affect children and juveniles. Young people tend to be more malleable than older people. The situations and choices that confront young people can easily have life-long reverberations. Thus, addressing the legal problems that affect them has the potential for the greatest payoff in terms of lives changed for the better

The Neighborhood Legal Center is located at:

3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 143
Los Angeles, California 90010
(213) 639-1889

Professor Hobbs' On-Campus Mediation Clinic

Apply now for on-campus Mediation Clinic for units or work-study. Satisfies pro bono requirement. For Day and Evening students. Spanish speakers needed. Please see Bridget in Faculty Support (Burns 320) for additional information.



Professor Hobbs' Trial Advocacy Class

Professor Hobbs teaches a trial advocacy class, which is a prerequisite to participation in a District Attorney's clinic. Because of the limited number of placements in the DA's office, interviews will be necessary for admittance to the class. Students may sign up for interviews for the FALL class of 2001 from Tuesday, Jan. 16th through Monday, Feb. 12, 2001. Sign-ups for interviews are not on a first-come, first-served basis – all students who sign up will be eligible for the lottery, if a lottery is necessary. Please see the board outside Faculty Support (Burns 320) for additional information or see Bridget in Faculty Support.

STUDENT PUBLIC INTEREST OPPORTUNITIES

Student Public Interest Opportunity information may be reviewed in the Public Interest Law Department or in the Office of Career Services for further information. Additional copies of agency/program information and application forms (if required) can be requested.

National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL)

FOCUS: Public Interest

POSITION: Summer 2001 Interns (Summer Corps)

COMPENSATION: \$1,000 in loan repayment assistance.

DEADLINE: Not specified.

NOTES: Open only to first-year and second-year law students.

CONTACT: Pamela Schiffleger at 201/466-3686 or email nvslc@napil.org. or visit the Public Interest Law Department to view materials.

Inner City Law Center

FOCUS: Slum Housing Litigation

POSITION: Law Clerks

COMPENSATION: Un-Paid

DEADLINE: Applicants are encouraged to submit information as early as possible.

NOTES: None

CONTACT: Interested students should contact Linda Samels Ceballos at 213/891-2880 x106.

Public Counsel

FOCUS: Public Interest

POSITION: Pro Bono Opportunity

COMPENSATION: Un-Paid (SPIEP available – See page 1)

DEADLINE: Applicants are encouraged to submit information as early as possible.

NOTES: Areas of law will include child-care law, small business issues, guardianship, adoption, consumer fraud, and immigration.

CONTACT: Interested students should contact Ted Zepeda at 213/385-2977 x125 or e-mail: tzepeda@pubblicounsel.org

Law School Myth about Public Interest Work

Myth: Even if you find a public interest job, you will not be able to make ends meet.

It is true that there is simply no comparison between the starting salaries at most large law firms and those of public interest and public sector offices. However, thousands of public interest attorneys earn fairly high salaries, live perfectly comfortable lives, take great vacations, and assert that the nonmonetary rewards more than make up for any financial sacrifices they have made. In addition, many schools have loan repayment programs like Loyola Law School's PILAP (Public Interest Loan Assistance Program) which can help if you will be graduating with student loans.

Post-Graduate Fellowship Opportunities

Fellowship information may be reviewed in the Public Interest Law Department or in the Office of Career Services for further information. Additional copies of agency/program information and application forms (if required) can be requested.

For more details contact the Public Interest Law Department

The Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation

(Public Interest Fellowship Award)

FOCUS: Public Interest

COMPENSATION: Up to \$10,000

DEADLINE: April 15, 2001.

NOTES: Eligible candidates must agree to perform public service work from September 2001 through August 2002.

Judicial Administration Fellowship

FOCUS: Judicial administration

COMPENSATION: Monthly stipend of \$1,882 for 11 months. Fellows also receive health, dental and vision benefits. The program pays for university enrollment and student fees. The program qualifies fellows for student loan deferment.

DEADLINE: February 9, 2001

NOTES: Applications are available on-line at <http://www.csus.edu/calst>, or visit the Public Interest Law Department.

Consumer's Union Fellowship for Economic Justice

FOCUS: Economic Justice

COMPENSATION: Approx. \$32K, full benefits.

DEADLINE: March 2001

NOTES: Must have a recent J.D. or M.A. in public policy, public health, urban planning or law. Send resume, cover letter, writing samples and a list of references to: 1535 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Attn: Minerva Novoa.

~SAVE THE DATE~

♥ *Adoption Day!*

Saturday, February 10th, 2001

Loyola Law School (Merrifield Hall)

9:00 a.m.

For more information on how to be a part of this wonderful event...

Call Felita Jones at 213/736-1059.