Fall Fundraising Raffle

The Annual Fall Raffle was held on November 15, 2012. This year’s grand prizes were a 40” LED TV and a 16GB Apple iPad2. These items were accompanied by a number of other donated prizes, including bar preparation course vouchers, gift cards, and items donated by NIU College of Law students.

This student-run event raised over $2,500 for the Outreach Assistantship Fund, which provides financial assistance to students who volunteer in public interest legal positions over summers.

2012 Outreach Assistantship Recipients Share their Summer Internship Stories

Amanda Wielgus, 2L
“I worked at the Kane County Child Advocacy Center. I soon learned that the CAC deals with children under the age of 16 who are victims of sexual abuse. If not for volunteering with PILS, I would not have been able to understand the heart-wrenching area of child sex abuse victims.”

Kaitlin Barclay, 2L
“This summer I worked at the Kane County State’s Attorney’s Office in the Domestic Abuse division. Thanks to PILS I was able to receive invaluable practical experience. Because of this program, I was able to pay for basic living expenses throughout the summer while learning about domestic abuse and how the legal system works for the victims in these difficult situations.”

Bryan Kelsey, 2L
“This summer I worked at the DuPage County State’s Attorney’s Office in the Diversion Program. The program works with offenders, attorneys and mental health professionals to find the best treatment for the offenders. Without the PILS outreach Assistantship, I could not have spent the hours I did volunteering for this program.”

Robert Bigelow, 3L
“The summer of 2011 I volunteered with Administer Justice, an organization which provides a wide variety of legal services to people living below the poverty line. It is a great organization, and without the outreach assistantship I could not have both worked for them and supported myself. The outreach assistantship made it possible.”
Letter from the President

The Public Interest Law Society is off to a great year! In addition to completing a number of service projects in the DeKalb community, we held our fall fundraiser, the PILS Raffle, on November 15th. The event raised over $2,500 for our Outreach Assistantship fund. As many alumni may remember, PILS’ primary purpose is to raise money through auctions, raffles and other events at the College of Law in order to provide financial assistance to students who volunteer in unpaid public interest legal positions during the summer.

Our primary fundraiser, the 18th Annual PILS Auction, will take place on Friday, April 5, 2013. It will be held in the Thurgood Marshall Gallery in conjunction with the Francis X. Riley Lecture on Professionalism. The Auction raises nearly all of financial assistance we provide to students. These Outreach Assistantships are made possible by generous donations from alumni, students, and business in the DeKalb community. I strongly encourage you to donate to this great cause and help provide NIU College of Law students the opportunity to pursue their goal of working in the public interest. Your support will make it possible for individuals in the community to benefit from the enthusiastic and dedicated students of the NIU College of Law.

Please visit http://www.niu.edu/law/calendar/events/PILS_auction.shtml to find out how to make a donation!

Kaitlin E. Barclay
President, Public Interest Law Society

Pizza Sales Add Additional Funding to OA Program

PILS held four pizza sales this fall to help raise additional funds for the Outreach Assistantship program. The pizzas were donated by BarBri, Kaplan Bar Review, and Themis, with all proceeds going to PILS to fund assistantships for students who volunteer in the public interest.

Emily Fitch, Class of 2014 Outreach Assistantship Recipient at the Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project