This past fall, the Public Interest Law Society held the annual raffle with all proceeds benefiting the PILS Outreach Assistantship fund. This fund provides financial support to students who take unpaid public interest legal internships over the summer. PILS members sold raffle tickets to students, professors, staff, and community members. Supporters had the chance to win three prizes: a $100 gift card to the Bellemore in Chicago, an Apple TV, or Apple Airpods. PILS was able to raise $1200 over the fall semester! Thank you!

2019 Outreach Assistantship Recipients

This past summer, I had the opportunity to work at the DeKalb County State’s Attorney’s Office. I was mostly working in the Domestic Violence division with two to three assistant state’s attorneys. However, I did have the opportunity to work in the traffic courtroom and conducted my first bench trial. Throughout this experience, I was able to learn the importance of seeking justice and protecting the rights of others even when the victims are not necessarily cooperative in meeting those goals. It was fascinating and at times, heart-wrenching, to see the array of emotions and psychological pressures at play in the domestic violence courtroom. I learned that it is important to be compassionate, yet unwavering in the pursuit of fulfilling one’s duty to the state and in protecting those who may not have anyone else. I am thankful for the PILS stipend that allowed me to stay near DeKalb throughout the summer, so I was able to gain these experiences.

— Kate McIlvanie, Class of 2020

I interned with Prairie State Legal Services in Rockford over the summer. This was an excellent experience that really exposed me to many different areas of law. I worked with attorneys to help victims of domestic violence obtain orders of protection. I was even fortunate enough to observe an adoption – easily the happiest trip to court of the summer. Because Prairie State is a non-profit legal services organization, their funding is limited and internship positions are not paid. I feel lucky to have received the Public Interest Law Society assistantship to help me offset my rent and utilities for the summer months.

— Allison Piper Geber, Class of 2021
Over the past summer, I interned at the Winnebago County State’s Attorney’s Office. This internship was a great way to expand upon the judicial clerkship I completed the previous summer because I encountered several of the judges I met last year and was able to continue to network in the county in which I hope to practice. In this internship, I was able to use my 711 license to actually stand up in court and prepare paperwork. These will be essential skills as I begin my career, and this early exposure to the proper processes will make adjusting to working much smoother. It was especially important to have had this experience this past summer because as of July 1st, Illinois changed the fee and assessment structure, so I was able to work through these changes with the attorneys and only be exposed to the new structure, rather than having to learn both. The PILS money was helpful because even though I was living at home during the summer, I still had to pay rent for my apartment in DeKalb, and this money helped me cover some of that cost.

Katelyn Ditzler, Class of 2020

Save the Date

25th Annual PILS Auction

April 3, 2020 5:30—9:00

Join us as we celebrate 25 successful years of helping students pursue public interest internships!