

children's rights
disability rights

expungement

civil

liberties

elder law

family law

social justice



Public Interest Law Initiative

2006 & 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

immigration

clemency

environmental

violence

rights

protection

prevention

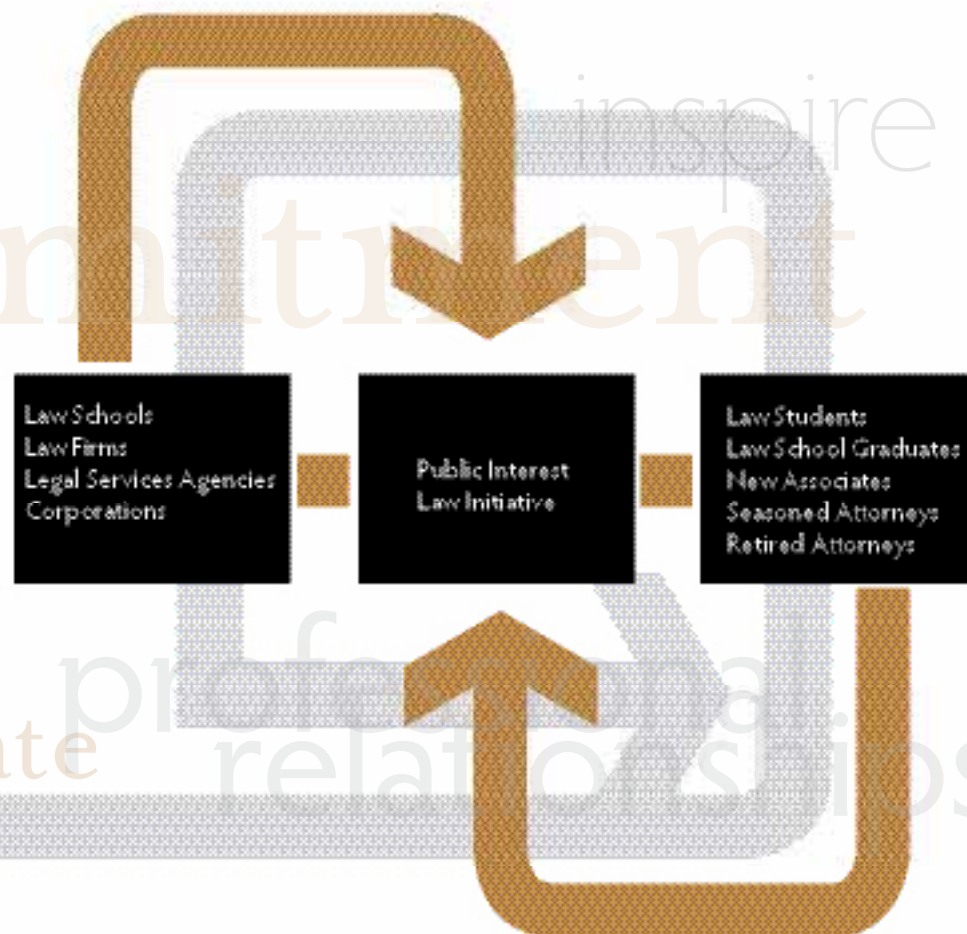
Greater than the Sum of our Parts

How do you want to contribute?

The Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) fulfills a unique role in Chicago's legal community. At every stage in a legal career, PILI guides attorneys through a continuum of public interest law and pro bono opportunities. Working collaboratively with all members of the legal community—educators, law students, law firms, corporations, attorneys, and legal services agencies—PILI builds professional relationships into working partnerships that generate legal assistance for poor, low-income and underserved people.

Making connections for social justice

PILI cultivates a lifelong commitment to public interest law.
PILI leverages legal expertise into legal assistance for the disenfranchised.
PILI fulfills this unique niche in our legal community.



The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Message From the President and Executive Director

Chicago's legal community exemplifies this well-known adage and its implicit wisdom that our collective potential far exceeds our individual potentials. The power of our legal community lies in its size and scope. The power of our legal profession lies in its collective commitment to justice.

Poverty inextricably links legal needs to numerous health, safety, and social welfare issues. The legal aid and public interest law sectors of our profession work diligently and heroically to give poor, low-income and underserved people equal access to justice. They cannot do it alone. It requires the commitment of all other sectors of the legal community—law firms, corporate legal departments, government agencies, and law schools—working together collaboratively and cooperatively toward this goal. Our whole is greater than the sum of our parts in pursuing equal access to justice.

The Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) fulfills a unique role in our legal community – leveraging legal expertise into legal assistance for the disenfranchised. The goals, work, and accomplishments of our Internship and Fellowship Program and the Pro Bono Initiative Program are presented in the following pages. As you review this Annual Report, keep in mind that the whole that is PILI is also greater than its parts. 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 harnesses the power of the legal profession's commitment to justice, maximizes the quantity, scope, impact, and coordination of that commitment, and then unleashes a wealth of legal assistance for poor and low-income people. PILI enables the legal community to be greater than the sum of its parts in working to make justice accessible to all.

To old friends, steadfast supporters, and collaborating partners, we thank 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 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 in a dialogue exploring the opportunities to activate, nourish, or re-engage your commitment to our mutual pursuit of equal access to justice. We welcome your participation.



Susan J. Curry, Executive Director and Kimball R. Anderson, President PILI Board of Directors (L. to R.)

PILI's Affiliated Agencies

Access Living • AIDS Legal Council • Alliance for the Great Lakes • Anti-Defamation League • Better Government Association • Business and Professional People for the Public Interest • Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic • Center for Conflict Resolution • Center for Disability & Elder Law • Centro Romero • Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice • Chicago-Kent College of Law Clinics • Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law • Chicago Legal Clinic • Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation • Citizen Advocacy Center • Community Economic Development Law Project • Cook County Office of the Public Guardian • Cook County Public Defender • CARPLS • Corporation for Supportive Housing • CAIR Civil Rights Division • DePaul College of Law Clinics • Domestic Violence Legal Clinic • Environmental Law & Policy Center • Equip for Equality • Federal Defender Program • Health & Disability Advocates • Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission • Illinois Legal Aid Online • Immigrant Child Advocacy Center • Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship • International Human Rights Law Institute • John Howard Association of Illinois • John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Clinic • Lambda Legal • Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless • Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing • Lawyers for the Creative Arts • Legal Aid Bureau • Legal Assistance Foundation of Metro Chicago • Life Span • Loyola University Law School Legal Clinics • MacArthur Justice Center • University of Chicago Mandel Legal Aid Clinic • Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund • National Immigrant Justice Center • Northwestern University Bluhm Legal Clinic • Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU • Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law • U. S. Department of Health & Human Services

Where did you do your PILI?

PILI Internship & Fellowship Program

An attorney's career begins on the first day of law school. At this earliest stage in a legal career, PILI is positioned to achieve two goals: enhance the legal education of law students and increase access to justice for the disenfranchised. In addition to its ongoing efforts to cultivate law student pro bono practice, PILI also offers paid opportunities to work in the public interest law field. PILI's Internship Program provides a unique, comprehensive, hands-on educational experience that transcends the boundaries of classroom learning and provides legal assistance to poor, low-income, and underserved people. Law students from over 100 law schools nationwide compete for PILI Summer Internships – a full-time ten-week opportunity working at a PILI affiliated public interest law or legal services agency. A limited number of PILI School-Year Internships are available for law students from area schools.

PILI's Fellowship Program provides a parallel opportunity for emerging lawyers at another early benchmark in their legal careers – preparing for and taking the bar exam. More than two dozen area law firms sponsor PILI Graduate Summer Fellowships for a number of their incoming new associates – a combination full and part-time commitment in the transitional summer from law student to attorney. Occasionally, this opportunity is also available on a school-year basis.

Three program components combine for an unparalleled experience, and distinguish "doing a PILI" from other experiential opportunities.

- **The Work Experience Component** is a practical experience providing legal services directly to clients or engaging in the tasks associated with advocacy, public education, policy development/analysis, and other impact-related legal work.
- **The Seminar Component** is a series of lunchtime presentations by area attorneys working in every sector of the legal community that introduces Interns and Fellows to various aspects of public interest law, related career options, and the effective incorporation of pro bono work into private practice legal careers. Networking and social events complement the formal seminars by introducing participants to members of the legal community.
- **The Adviser Component** is an opportunity for Interns to be paired with an attorney on PILI's Board of Directors for career guidance, networking, and a personal introduction to Chicago's legal community.

PILI's Internship & Fellowship Program creates a virtual additional workforce of law students and recent graduates serving the poor, low-income, and underserved clients of more than 50 area legal services agencies while gaining an exceptional educational experience. The legal assistance provided by Interns and Fellows to or on behalf of clients, changes lives on individual, group, community and/or societal levels, and creates safer, healthier, more prosperous futures.

The lives of PILI Interns and Fellows are changed as well. The legal work experience that Interns gain distinguishes them among their peers, and often ignites a commitment to public interest law or pro bono work. Fellows are distinguished among other new associates at their firms by the hands-on legal experience they gain. Many build upon this experience by continuing pro bono work as new associates, laying the foundation for on-going service.



PILI Board Member Michael J. Koenigsnecht presents a 2006 Distinguished PILI Alumni Award to Jean Choi.

PILI Internship & Fellowship Program

The last two fiscal years have seen record-setting numbers of PILI Interns and Fellows, and consequently, quantitative milestones in both the number of Work Component Hours devoted to PILI-affiliated agencies and the number of agencies' clients receiving direct legal services from PILI Interns and Fellows. PILI Interns and Fellows provided direct legal assistance on a wide range of issues including asylum, immigration, civil rights, disability-based discrimination, guardianship, domestic violence, tenant/landlord issues, public benefits, and elder abuse.

	FY 2006	FY 2007
Summer & School Year INTERNS	56	57
Summer & School Year FELLOWS	76	88
Class Total INTERNS & FELLOWS	132	145
Work Component HOURS	42,800	46,200
CLIENTS Receiving Direct Legal Services	2,335	3,080

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 potentially impacted the lives of thousands of individuals, groups, and communities, sometimes on a national or international level. 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.

Fiscal Year 2006 Examples

- Government domestic spying
- Forensic lab evidentiary issues
- Detained religious minorities
- Sale/lease Illinois' toll ways
- US international philanthropy laws
- Racial profiling

Fiscal Year 2007 Examples

- Exclusion of adolescent males from family shelters
- Recall process Consumer Safety Protection Act
- National standards defining/reporting sexual assaults
- Sterilization of disabled adults
- Permissible discovery techniques
- Judicial election reform

After Internships and Fellowships are completed, PILI offers its Alumni a variety of activities and opportunities, fostering those first public interest law experiences into career-long commitments to pro bono work, and inspiring an ongoing association with PILI's Pro Bono Initiative to actualize those commitments. PILI Internships and Fellowships are often the first stage in the life cycle of a legal career dedicated to equal access to justice, a career that demonstrates personal commitment and professional responsibility to the unmet legal needs of the disenfranchised.

My experience as a PILI Intern was the most rewarding legal education that I have had during law school. Through my internship, I was able to help those less fortunate in my community obtain legal services that they are entitled to as Americans. My PILI Internship has reminded me that as a lawyer, I have a responsibility to share my knowledge and skills with those in the community who need it the most. My experience this summer shaped my legal education and career, and for that I will be forever grateful.

—Erica Byrd
2006 PILI Intern
Chicago Legal Clinic
John Marshall Law School

How does pro bono fit in your legal career?



PBI is a center for the collection and distribution of pro bono information within the legal community.

PBI provides several tools developed to promote pro bono programs in the work environment and supply examples of best practices in action. As a clearinghouse for pro bono information, PBI maintains additional resource information to promote and enhance pro bono programs and opportunities for those seeking assistance—individual attorneys and special pro bono groups such as law students, government attorneys, paralegals, senior lawyers, and legal aid and public interest law organizations.

Pro Bono Initiative

PILI's role in the life cycle of a legal career begins with law students and continues with new associates, seasoned lawyers, and senior attorneys working in every sector of the legal community – private, government, and nonprofit. PILI is positioned to help these law students and attorneys actualize their personal commitments and professional responsibilities to pro bono legal assistance. By increasing the quantity, widening the scope, and broadening the depth of pro bono work in Chicago and throughout the state, PILI increases access to justice for the disenfranchised through its Pro Bono Initiative (PBI) program.

PILI launched the Pro Bono Initiative program in 1999 and entered into a two-year joint project agreement with The Chicago Bar Foundation in 2006. This expanded project brought additional resources that supported a re-engineered project infrastructure including a full-time director, administrative support, and a steering committee. The resulting project momentum enabled PBI to engage the legal community in pro bono work in new ways and to new degrees.

Communicating With Constituents

<p>www.probonoinitiative.org Pro Bono Advocate</p>	<p>The PBI website offers visitors comprehensive information about its work, and pro bono resources, events, opportunities, trainings, and publications. PBI communicates with more than 500 constituents in the legal community statewide through its monthly e-newsletter, "Pro Bono Advocate."</p>
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Sharing Information

<p>Pro Bono Prospectus</p>	<p>This guide outlines the initial steps in developing a formal pro bono program in a firm or corporate setting and in engaging the participation of fellow attorneys in pro bono activities.</p>
<p>Pro Bono Reference Guide (Corporation Resource Edition and Law Firm Resource Edition)</p>	<p>These publications provide direction, best practices, and relevant samples integral to the development or enhancement of a pro bono program. Editions are tailored to assist specific constituent groups.</p>
<p>PBI Directory of Pro Bono Projects for Summer Associates</p>	<p>A compilation of projects at Chicago area law firms that utilized summer associates is summarized in this biennial document.</p>
<p>Pro Bono Volunteer Opportunities For Attorneys in the Chicago Area</p>	<p>Using this comprehensive account of pro bono opportunities, attorneys can identify a match to their interests and schedules. PBI surveys and assembles the information; The Chicago Bar Foundation publishes the booklet.</p>

The Pro Bono Initiative works collaboratively with law schools, law firms, corporations, and legal services agencies to create and promote work environments, programs, and opportunities that help emerging and established attorneys at every stage of their legal careers provide pro bono legal assistance. By ensuring effective communication, promoting best practices, and serving as a clearinghouse and resource for pro bono issues, PBI increases legal services for those who lack access to justice. PBI is the structure within the legal community that effectively generates new and renewed collaborative pro bono legal assistance.

PBI has a profound impact on both individual and system levels. Through PBI, law students and attorneys help address the current legal needs of poor, low-income, and underserved clients of area legal services agencies. The resulting legal assistance helps these clients meet the immediate legal challenges of a host of health and welfare issues, and creates opportunities for success, health, and prosperity in their futures. Through PBI, law students and attorneys incorporate pro bono work as an integral component of their careers. On a system level, PBI creates a culture of service within the legal community that perpetually leverages legal skills into critically needed legal assistance for poor, low-income, and underserved people.



Representatives from law firms, corporations, law schools, and legal services agencies gather at the 2007 PBI Forum.

Exploring Approaches

<p>Pro Bono Forum</p>	<p>Leaders of law firms, corporations, legal services agencies, and law schools meet semi-annually to discuss timely pro bono issues and best practices.</p>
<p>Agency Series</p>	<p>Public interest law agencies convene twice yearly to share effective strategies in the design and management of pro bono programs in nonprofits.</p>
<p>Corporate Roundtable Series (Planned for 2008)</p>	<p>Corporate pro bono leaders from throughout the state will convene for a two-part series that explores unique pro bono challenges facing corporate attorneys. Best practices, strategies for successful pro bono programs, and networking will highlight these discussions.</p>

Strategies that increase pro bono legal assistance are explored with pro bono constituent groups through dialogues that generate sound assessments, constructive recommendations, new collaborations, and fresh approaches.

Setting Ideas Into Motion

<p>Pro Bono Technical Consultation Team</p>	<p>Used in tandem with the Pro Bono Reference Guide, teams of attorneys from firms and corporations that have successfully developed, reinvigorated, or managed pro bono programs assist other firms or corporate legal departments in establishing or enhancing their pro bono programs.</p>
<p>Pro Bono Opportunities Advisory Team</p>	<p>Works with Illinois Legal Aid Online assessing our statewide pro bono capacity to ensure a sufficient variety of pro bono legal opportunities and to most effectively utilize the IllinoisProBono.org website.</p>
<p>Pro Bono Manual Revision Team</p>	<p>Extensive revisions of the original manual resulted in two distinct new editions providing best practice of pro bono program development and administration for law firms and corporations. An agency edition is anticipated in the future.</p>
<p>PBI Program Planning Team</p>	<p>Plans the structure and content of formal dialogues with PBI constituent groups including the Pro Bono Forum, the Agency Series, the Corporate Roundtable Series, and PILI's annual "Celebrating Pro Bono" reception.</p>

Project Teams carry out the mission of PBI. With a cross-section of PBI participants on each team, attorneys from firms, corporations, law schools, and legal aid agencies work collaboratively and cooperatively to put ideas into action.

We simply cannot thank you enough.

Donors — Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007

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We apologize for any inadvertent omissions or misspellings.

Financial Review

Audited Income and Expense Report

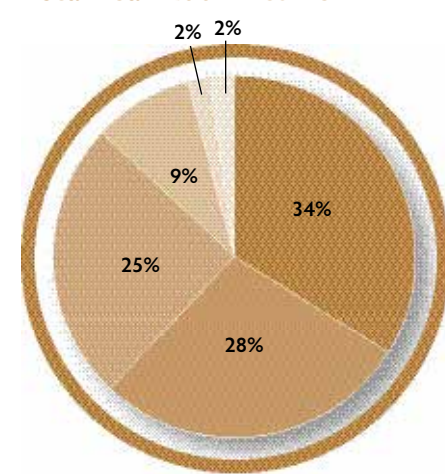
Fiscal Year 2006 (September 1, 2005–August 31, 2006)

Fiscal Year 2007 (September 1, 2006–August 31, 2007)

Income	Fy 2006	Fy 2007
Law Firms	\$162,450	\$184,000
Foundations, Corporations	210,050	223,600
Individual Contributions	57,142	61,141
Alfred C. Tisdahl, Jr. Endowment	11,000	10,000
Special Events	157,905	163,810
Investment	7,585	9,997
Other	57	3,300
Total Income	\$606,189	\$655,848

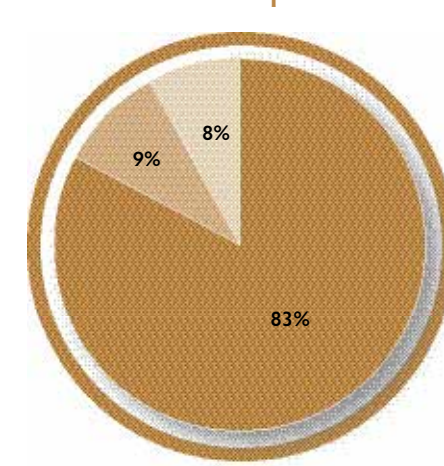
Expenses	Fy 2006	Fy 2007
Personnel	\$236,323	\$305,373
Internship Grants/Education Program	176,955	200,559
Special Events	32,790	30,495
Professional Fees (Audit, Payroll, Consulting)	3,451	11,124
Printing & Publications	5,786	1,163
Postage/Delivery	3,097	2,098
Office Expenses	9,418	6,333
Telephone & Internet	964	1,719
Conferences, Travel & Meetings	2,183	4,842
Dues & Subscriptions	2,560	3,365
Depreciation	266	350
Miscellaneous	1,391	1,415
Operating Reserve	30,000	10,000
Total Expenses	\$505,184	\$578,836

Fiscal Year 2007 Income



Foundations, Corporations	34%
Law Firms	28%
Special Events	25%
Individual Contributions	9%
Alfred C. Tisdahl, Jr. Endowment	2%
Investment & Other	2%

Fiscal Year 2007 Expenses



Program	83%
Fundraising	9%
Management	8%

Our gratitude to the following donors who have generously funded "Named Internships" designated in honor/memory of friends and colleagues, or targeting a specific issue, legal need, or legal service provider.

Alfred C. Tisdahl, Jr.

Internship Endowment
 by the Francis Beidler Foundation

George W. Overton Memorial Internship
 by Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP
 and Jane Overton

Jerome & Jamie Gilson, Thomas L.
 Nicholson Memorial Internships
 by Jamie and Jerry Gilson

Karen & Kimball Anderson Internship at
 the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
 by Karen & Kimball Anderson

Roslyn C. Lieb Internship
 by PILI Board of Directors and PILI Donors

Union League Civic & Arts
 Foundation Internships
 by the Union League Civic & Arts
 Foundation

Anton R. Valukas Internship and
 Lisa A. Jaffe Internship
 by The Chicago Bar Foundation

Special thanks to Foley & Lardner LLP
 for their generous in-kind contribution
 of office space for PILI.

Our PILI Intern interviewed clients, conducted case research, drafted pleadings, and argued a motion in court. This work was done on behalf of homeowners threatened with the loss of their homes due to the threat of foreclosure or real estate fraud. Our intern did the full range of activities we attorneys do. The PILI program is an invaluable resource for funding our summer interns, both to do important work during the summer and to cultivate future public interest lawyers.

—Dan Lindsey
 Legal Assistance Foundation

Will you join the celebrations?

PILI's Annual Awards Luncheon, "Celebrating Service," recognizes the best aspect of the legal profession. Each year more than 450 members of the legal community pay tribute to their colleagues for remarkable contributions to public interest law and pro bono work. The generous support of numerous area law firms and corporations as event sponsors make this celebratory occasion a successful fundraising event for PILI.



Cook County State's Attorney Richard A. Devine was the Keynote Speaker of the December 2006 PILI Annual Awards Luncheon.

Alexander Polikoff, Senior Staff Counsel and former Executive Director of Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, inspired guests with a December 2005 keynote address recounting the events and challenges of the Gautreaux public housing desegregation litigation. Richard A. Devine, three-term Cook County State's Attorney discussed creative options used by his office that balance justice with compassion, and advocacy with fairness in his December 2006 keynote address.

The heart of "Celebrating Service" is the acknowledgement of those who have made significant public service contributions that strengthen the culture of service within the legal community and give the disenfranchised access to justice.

Distinguished Public Service Award

Honors an individual whose commitment to public interest work has shaped a career dedicated to service.

Howard A. Learner (FY 2006)

Randolph N. Stone (FY 2007)



Howard A. Learner, winner of the PILI Distinguished Public Service Award, and Alexander Polikoff, Keynote Speaker and Senior Staff Counsel for Business and Professional People for the Public Interest were among the honored guests at the December 2005 PILI Annual Awards Luncheon (L to R).

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Recognizes a former PILI Intern and Fellow for outstanding contributions of public interest law and pro bono work

Douglas A. Graham & Jody R. Adler (FY 2006)

Eric J. Gorman & Jean Choi (FY 2007)

Pro Bono Initiative Award

Acknowledges a single organization for exemplary pro bono work in the community

Winston & Strawn LLP (FY 2006)

Jenner & Block LLP (FY 2007)

PILI also hosts an annual pro bono reception, "Celebrating Pro Bono." This 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. An evening of casual conversations, opportunities to make new acquaintances or renew former ones, and share pro bono experiences, supports and promotes the culture of service made possible by members of the legal community. The event was held at the Chicago Cultural Center in summer 2006 and at the Harold Washington Library Center in summer 2007.

Area law firms and corporations sponsor this event, helping PILI raise additional operating funds.



Guests from all sectors of the legal community gathered to celebrate pro bono relationships and successes at PILI's 2007 Celebrating Pro Bono reception.

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