

In Your Interest

News and information for the public interest and public service community

A publication of the BLS Public Service Programs Office

January 17, 2008

In This Issue

- [News And Announcements](#)
- [Job Fairs & Conferences](#)
- [What Happened](#)
- [Pro Bono at BLS](#)
- [Summer Fellowships](#)
- [Internships](#)
- [Post-Graduate Fellowships](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Web Links

News and Announcements

In Your Interest Is Online

<http://brooklaw.edu/career/publicserviceevents/>

PSLawNet Training Session

Friday, January 18, 2008, 1-2pm in Computer Lab Room C36. (Down the stairs near the Library Reference Desk, make two right turns at the bottom.)

Learn to use the online database [PSLawNet](#) to effectively conduct your Public Service job and internship search. Through its online database, PSLawNet provides a comprehensive clearinghouse of public interest organizations and opportunities for lawyers and law students. Users can perform customized searches of public interest opportunities around the world, ranging from short-term volunteer and paid internships to full-time jobs, fellowships and pro bono opportunities. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to publicservice@brooklaw.edu. Training sessions will be available the third Friday of every month at 1 PM. If you cannot make it at this time, and would like to schedule a separate session, email publicservice@brooklaw.edu.

NYU Job Fair Orientation

An orientation will be held January 24, from 1-2 pm in the Student Lounge. We will talk about how best to maximize the opportunities at the Fair if you have no formal interviews, and if you do have. Come learn what to do, wear, bring, expect, etc. We will also talk about informational table interviews, but in the meantime, please read [Informational Table Interviewing](#).

David M. Barron '03 Appears Before Supreme Court

Read about alum David Barron's lethal injection case before the Supreme Court [here](#). A transcript of the *Baze v. Rees* oral argument is available from publicservice@brooklaw.edu. Audio feed of *Baze v. Rees* is available at www.oyez.com. The case was argued by Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., partner in Jenner & Block's Washington, DC office who concentrates his practice on Supreme Court and appellate litigation, telecommunications, and First Amendment and media litigation, and has argued other Supreme Court cases regarding the death penalty.

Job Fairs & Conferences

[NYU Job Fair](#)

The Public Interest Law Center (PILC) at New York University School of Law will hold its 31st annual Public Interest Legal Career Fair on February 7 and 8, 2008. 788 students from BLS registered for the Fair, and 434 submitted at least one application. See information about the orientation session above.

[14th Annual Rebellious Lawyering Conference](#)

February 22-24, 2008, New Haven CT

Registration is now open on the website. This year features keynote speaker Bill Quigley, Civil Rights Activist, Lawyer, and Distinguished Professor of Law at Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. Last year, over 550 practitioners, law students, and community activists discussed progressive strategies for social change within and without the law.

You can also sign up on the website to receive free housing for the weekend in New Haven on the spare beds, couches and floors of local friendly, rebellious law students.

[Robert M. Cover Public Interest Law Retreat](#)

February 29-March 2, 2008, Sargent Center, Peterborough, New Hampshire

The 21st annual retreat for progressive lawyers, public interest-minded law students and teachers. See posted leaflets and go to <http://www.law.yale.edu/news/coverretreat.asp> for more information. Email CoverRetreat@gmail.com with specific questions not on the website.



Spotlight

[The Innocence Project](#)

Some of you may know Professor Aliza Kaplan as your legal writing instructor during that glorious first year of law school, or from your Fundamentals of Legal Drafting course. Others may remember that last year she was nominated for an Oscar for her role as co-producer of *My Country, My Country*, a documentary about the U.S. occupation of Iraq. What some of you may not know is that Professor Kaplan served as the Deputy Director of the Innocence Project, an organization dedicated to identifying, investigating and exonerating wrongfully convicted individuals who are currently incarcerated using DNA evidence. She co-founded the New England Innocence Project with attorney Barry Scheck, founder of the Innocence Project at Cardozo Law School.

The New England Innocence Project is one of many members of the International Innocence Network. These regional organizations, like the Innocence Project of New Orleans or the Northern California Innocence Project, focus on high impact advocacy in the courts, providing exonerees with assistance in re-adjusting to the outside world as well as promoting change within the criminal justice system to prevent future wrongful convictions.

The day-to-day life of an intern at the New England Innocence Project consists of extensive research and writing, but also includes opportunities to conduct in-depth background investigations and chances to conduct client interviews at the prisons. At the New England Innocence Project interns are usually placed in teams of four or five supervised by an attorney who helps direct work product and provides feedback. These teams could work on up to 40 or 50 cases during the course of the internship.

The Innocence Project of New Orleans works to exonerate those wrongfully convicted in Mississippi and Louisiana, the states with the country's highest incarceration rates, and the highest rates of wrongful conviction in the country. This past summer interns there had the opportunity to hear numerous experts in the field speak at the Innocence Project's office including renowned capital defense lawyer Denny Lebouf who, among other

achievements, was the Director of the Capital Post Conviction Project of Louisiana from its inception in 2001 until 2005 and a member of the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union. The Innocence Project of New Orleans also deals with wrongfully convicted clients who have been given the death penalty.

For those of you thinking about pursuing a summer/permanent position with the Innocence Project, or other organizations involved in providing *pro bono* legal assistance to those wrongfully convicted, Professor Kaplan provides some advice: "You have to believe so deeply in what you are doing," she told me. Compassion, patience and resilience are traits that people need in order to work in this area of criminal law. The process of investigating, fighting and overturning a wrongful conviction takes time, and for the clients, their families as well as the attorneys working on their cases time is not something that can be so easily tendered. While this kind of work can be described as an uphill battle, the contribution one can make by helping to free an innocent person is massive. Professor Kaplan summed this up nicely when she said: "If I went to law school to save one person, it was worth it."

If you would like to learn more about the Innocence Project or the regional Innocence Project organizations, please visit <http://www.innocenceproject.org>.

If you would like to speak with Professor Kaplan about her time with the New England Innocence Project, contact her at aliza.kaplan@brooklaw.edu

- JJ Shepherd '09

Pro Bono at BLS

For *pro bono* opportunities at BLS and in NYC, see [BLS Pro Bono Opportunities](#).

Resources

- For *pro bono* opportunities at BLS and in NYC, see [BLS Pro Bono Opportunities](#).
- [Internship Evaluation Reports](#) Read about students' experiences during their internships.
- [Public Interest Career Fairs](#) across the United States and Canada on [PSLawNet.org](#).
- Access BLS Alums working in your area of interest. Contact [Caitlin Monck-Marcellino](#)
- Financial Resources & Loan Repayment for the Public Interest Student [Webcast](#) of the October 25, 2007 program
- Public Service Programs Office
 - Bulletin boards have public service job listings.
 - *Serving the Public: A Job Search Guide*, Harvard Law School's Handbook & Directory for Law Students and Lawyers Seeking Public Service Work. Note: USA, International, and the 07-08 Employer Directory Supplement volumes are available for checkout.
 - *In Your Interest* is online [here](#).

Post Graduate Fellowships

[Post-Graduate Fellowships Overview](#) offers information on types of fellowships and resources available. (Requires BLS user name and password.) For more opportunities, check [PSLawNet](#) and the *Serving the Public: A Job Search Guide*, available at the Public Service Programs Office.

[Berkeley Law Foundation](#) seeks requests for proposals for 1 year projects.

[Fair Trial Initiative Osborn Law Fellowship](#)

Summer Fellowships

Most of you planning to work at public interest and government agencies will be able to find funding through **Brooklyn Law School's work-study** or **Public Service Grant program** or the other fellowships listed below. (You do not have to be work-study eligible to be eligible for the school's Public Service Grant program. Please see Financial Aid). Most of the grants listed here are for \$5,000 and require 10 weeks work in a public interest or government organization.

[PILI](#) grants cover public interest work in the Chicago Metropolitan Area. **Loyola Law School Center for Juvenile Law and Policy** offers summer stipends for its juvenile justice clinic. Email publicservice@brooklaw.edu for more information.

Note: you may also log public interest hours towards a tuition grant of \$1000 (requires 300 hours, but they may be hours for which you were paid under any source including the grants above) under the [Equal Justice Works Summer Corps Program](#).

See [PSLawNet Summer Funding](#) for other sources.

Internship Opportunities

Check PSPO, [PSLawNet](#), and [Symblicity](#) for internships, some of which may be paid. For any that are unfunded, Brooklyn Law School Public Service Grants may be available to you. Questions? Email publicservice@brooklaw.edu.

Contact Us

Are the Events and Activities Here Not What You Are Looking For?

We recognize that BLS students cover a broad political spectrum, and need your help to ensure **In Your Interest** is inclusive. Please let us know of activities and events that represent your perspective so they can be included.

Website: <http://brooklaw.edu/career/publicservice/>

Email: publicservice@brooklaw.edu

Unsubscribe

In Your Interest is issued every 2 weeks. To unsubscribe, email publicservice@brooklaw.edu.

Contact Us

[Public Service Programs Office Website](#)

Resources for employment, funding opportunities, public interest related news, events, & more.

publicservice@brooklaw.edu
[u](#)