

# In Your Interest

*News and information for the public interest and public service community*

A publication of the BLS Public Service Programs Office

February 14, 2008

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## News and Announcements

To list your event in the next IYI, please send information to [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu) by Tuesday, February 26.

In Your Interest is Online [Here](#)

### PILC FAIR Wrap-Up

How We Did: Brooklyn Law School had an impressive presence at the NYU PILC Fair with 435 students participating, over 500 formal interviews, and more than 275 informational table interviews.

Follow-up to Interviews and Offers: wondering about [thank you letters](#), how to handle juggling offers or have other follow-up questions? Please see the leaflet, *Public Service Interview Follow-up* underneath the section on thank you letters on the link above.

Apology Letters for Cancellations and No Shows: If you cancelled your interview after 3:00 pm on February 4<sup>th</sup>, or did not show up, you are required to write an apology letter (an apologetic cancellation does not count as an apology letter). Please see your career counselor for guidance on the required protocols and best way to handle these letters.

Was the Fair Useful for You? Please email us! We'd like to hear if it was helpful and how we could better help you maximize the benefit of this resource. In addition, over the coming months, when you receive an offer directly or indirectly from the Fair (whether or not you accept), please let us know at [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu).

### Public Service /Federal Work Study Grants Available

If you have not yet secured funding, there is funding available through work study and through the BLS Public Service Grant Program. The maximum grant is \$5000 based on \$12/hour, 40 hour work week over a ten week period. Contact the Financial Aid Office at [finaid@brooklaw.edu](mailto:finaid@brooklaw.edu) or 718.780.7915. If 2008 will be your first summer work study experience it is mandatory that you attend one of the Financial Aid Workshops.

### Your Debt and the CCRAA

*Tuesday, February 19, 2008, 1-2pm, Room 503*

Your life could be changed by the new federal debt reduction act. The CCRAA allows you to make drastically lowered payments on your educational debt after law school and, for those in any government or public service position, forgives remaining debt after 120 payments. Come find out who and what debt is covered and what you must do to take advantage. Heather Jarvis, a national expert on the CCRAA, will help you become an expert on your own situation. *This may one of the most important hours of your law school career.*

## Debt Management Tips for Law Students: Becoming a Financially Savvy Consumer

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 1-2pm, Student Lounge*

This program is for those students who want to know how to deal with existing and avoid future consumer debt and protect their credit. If you are or could become behind on your credit card or have other consumer debt, come hear Claudia Wilner from NEDAP, talk about the "life of a debt," and what you need to do to protect yourself.

## Prisoner's Rights and Remedies

*Tuesday, March 5, 2008, 1-2pm, Room 605*

More info TBA.

## The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual BLSPI Public Interest Charity Auction

*March 6, 2008, 5-10pm Subotnick Center, Enter on the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Beer and Wine will be served*

- Faculty/Student Jeopardy: 5pm, 10th Floor, with Prof. Serkin filling in for Alex Trebek.
- Silent Auction: 6pm, 11th Floor, featuring original works of art, merchandise from NYC boutiques, and sports collectibles.
- Live Auction: 7pm, 10th Floor, featuring a variety of dinners and activities with BLS Professors, donations from NYC Law Firms, tennis with former Mayor Dinkins at his club, vacations to this season's hotspots, and even an item from the NY Giants.

This year the Auction Committee has been hard at work transforming the overall look and feel of the auction into something truly memorable. All proceeds from the auction benefit BLSPI initiatives, including the BLSPI Fellowship for current BLS students. All of the auction lots will be posted on [BLSPI Auction](#) in the next week or so. So save the date and get excited because this evening will surely be one of the biggest parties of the year. BLSPI looks forward to seeing you there!

## Post Graduate Fellowships: An Overview

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 1-2pm*

This panel presentation will provide an overview of the types of fellowships, how they work, and what's in it for you (sneak preview: they are a fabulous credential and open many doors). It is for anyone who thinks there is even the remotest chance they might like a post graduate fellowship. There will not be another overview between this presentation and the deadline for the most common fellowships. Current and former fellows as well as major fellowship directors including Susan Butler Plum from the Skadden Arps Fellowship Program will comprise the panel.

## Fellowship Applications: A Proposal Practicum

*Wednesday, March 26, 2008, 1-2pm*

This is a follow-up to the overview. Those who are leaning towards applying for a fellowship will learn how to develop and draft a proposal at this practical seminar presented by current and former BLS Fellows.

## How to Succeed as a Summer Associate

*Tuesday, March 29, 2008, 5-7pm, Student Lounge*

Get tips for how to handle the expected and unexpected in a summer internship whether it's government, public interest, a large firm or small.

*Also see [PG Fellowships](#)  
Below*

## Public Service Awards Ceremony

Monday, March 31, 2008, 5-7pm, Subotnick Center

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### *Pro Bono* at BLS

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

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## Job Fairs & Conferences

### NYU Fair Follow-Up

See "Wrap-up" 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:CoverRetreat@gmail.com) with specific questions not on the website.

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## Resources

- [NALP Apartment Exchange](#) is a terrific resource for students to find out-of-town summer housing or to sublet their places.
- 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.

- o *In Your Interest* is online [here](#).

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## 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.

### **ACLU of Northern California Technology and Civil Liberties**

**Fellowship** Deadline is February 15, 2008. See [Post Graduate Fellowships](#) in News and Announcements.

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## Internship Opportunities

Check PSPO, [PSLawNet](#), and [S ymplicity](#) 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](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu).

**Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services** has 3 internship opportunities in housing, family, and government benefits. See [Internship Opportunities](#) in News and Announcements.

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### Contact Us

[Public Service Programs Office Website](#)

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

[publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto: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. To list your event in the next IYI, please send information to [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu) by Tuesday, February 26.

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

Email: [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu)

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