

# In Your Interest

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

A publication of the BLS Public Service Programs Office

March 13, 2008

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***Congratulations to all who worked on the BLSPI auction! Nice work!***

## News and Announcements

To list your event in the next IYI, please send information to [publicservice@brooklaw.edu](mailto:publicservice@brooklaw.edu) by Tuesday, March 25.

In Your Interest is Online [Here](#)

### Fellowship Applications: A Proposal Practicum

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

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

### Public Service Awards Ceremony

*Monday, March 31, 2008, 5-7pm, Subotnick Center. Refreshments will be served.*

Graduating student leaders, public service fellows and those having performed significant *pro bono* work during law school will be honored; two students will receive the Faculty *Pro Bono* Award presented by the faculty, and a guest TBA will speak on international human rights work.

### Translators Needed for UN Summit on Indigenous Issues

*April 21 – May 2, 2008 at the UN Headquarters in NYC & May 19-20, 2008 at the Church Center, 777 United Nations Plaza, Indigenous Peoples' Caucus Meeting*

Since the founding of the Permanent Forum at the United Nations, New York City's Native American and Indigenous community has worked closely with international organizations and non governmental organizations around the world to provide logistical and technical support to the hundreds of Indigenous peoples coming to New York City for this annual event. Contact Kent Lebsock at [iamkent@verizon.net](mailto:iamkent@verizon.net) for more information.

### BLSPI Auction Raised Over \$53,000

The 18th Annual BLSPI Auction was a tremendous success. This is the first year in BLSPI's history that the auction has surpassed its goal of raising over \$50,000. All proceeds from the auction benefit BLSPI initiatives, including the BLSPI Fellowship for current BLS students.

### Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund for Student Activists

*Application deadline is April 1, 2008*

Need-based grants are available to college students who are involved in building movements for social and economic justice. The maximum grant is \$8000. For more information see [Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund](#).

*Thinking about a post graduate Fellowship? (Maybe you should be!)*

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

## Post Graduate Fellowships: An Overview

Webcast Will Be Announced on [Public Service News & Announcements](#)

This first of two presentations on Fellowships provided an overview of the types of fellowships, how they work, and what's in it for you. If you missed it, please see the webcast which will be posted in a day or two on News and Announcements. This will be followed by the second panel on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in the student lounge. That panel will provide the nitty gritty of how to get a fellowship—how to identify a project, find a host, draft your proposal and survive the interview process. BLS grads Camille Zentner and Carmen Maria Rey, a Skadden Fellow and Equal Justice Works Fellow respectively will take you through this process. (A third BLS grad may join them).

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## Listing of Other News and Announcements

See [the BLS Calendar](#) for more information.

### 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 or small firm.

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## Financial Matters

WebLinks are available for recent financial programs sponsored by the Public Service Programs Office.

- Loan Repayment and Forgiveness Options: Your Debt and the College Cost Reduction and Access Act [Webcast](#) of the February 19, 2008 program. The new federal debt reduction act—the [CCRAA](#)—allows for drastically lower payments for those with high debt and low income, and provides for debt forgiveness for those in public interest and government. Heather Jarvis, a national expert from Equal Justice Works, provides you with all the basics.
- Financially Savvy: Debt Management Tips [Webcast](#) of the February 27, 2008 program. Claudia Wilner from [Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project](#) talks about the "life of a debt" and what you need to do to protect yourself and protect your credit rating.

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## Pro Bono at BLS adds Immigration Watch

Added to the list of *pro bono* opportunities at BLS and in NYC at [BLS Pro Bono Opportunities](#), is a new project sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild chapter that trains students to help ensure fairness in immigration hearings. The Detainee Working Group was formed in response to the post-9/11 mass immigration roundups but has since expanded its focus to ensure the fairness of immigration hearings for all litigants. If interested, contact the National Lawyers Guild through [jessica.spector@brooklaw.edu](mailto:jessica.spector@brooklaw.edu) or [robert.quackenbush@brooklaw.edu](mailto:robert.quackenbush@brooklaw.edu).

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## Resources

- Loan Repayment and Forgiveness Options: Your Debt and the CCRAA [Webcast](#) of the February 19, 2008 program
- Financially Savvy: Debt Management Tips [Webcast](#) of the February 27, 2008 program
- [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](#)
- 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](#).

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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. Upcoming are 2 panels. See information above.

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## Summer Fellowships

### 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. (You do not have to be work-study eligible to be eligible for the school's Public Service Grant program.)

[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).

### 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)

**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

### 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, March 25.

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

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

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