

PUBLIC INTEREST CAREER PLANNING

PART I: PUBLIC SERVICE OPTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Public Service is a very broad term – it encompasses a variety of practice areas and practice settings. In general, it includes government as well as non-profit settings and directly representing clients as well as policy advocacy. The work focuses on representing underserved populations (e.g. domestic violence victims, immigrants, the elderly, disabled clients, children, and the poor) and inadequately protected legal rights (civil rights, environment, education, criminal, and consumer law). Government work is also public service and opportunities exist at the federal, state, county, and city levels. Examples include criminal defense and prosecution, working for government agencies, and legislative/policy work.

Public Service is a wonderful way to gain experience, use your legal education, and help others for the common good. There are a variety of ways to incorporate Public Service into your legal career, and it is never too soon to start! We hope the following tips and resources serve as a starting point. Feel free to follow up with our office for more information.

DEFINING THE FIELD

Public service is a very broad field with a variety of practice areas and practice settings available. With some qualifications, we define public service primarily as work in *nonprofit and government* settings.

In this guide, we focus on the following public service practice settings which exemplify public service lawyering: legal aid programs, public interest organizations, prosecutors' offices, public defender programs, state attorneys general, municipal counsel's offices, civil rights enforcement agencies, legislative bodies, and many other kinds of law enforcement and administrative agencies.

Legal Aid Programs

The main source of civil legal aid positions is in local not-for-profit corporations that are grantees of the federally-chartered and funded Legal Services Corporation. Every county in every state and territory is served by one of these local LSC grantee programs, although in non-metropolitan areas one office may cover a number of counties. These organizations are the nation's primary source of free, civil legal assistance for poor people. LSC grantee programs work primarily in the areas of family law, consumer/debtor rights, housing law (tenant and homeowner rights), and public benefits law (e.g. client rights under welfare and entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and others). Additional practice areas may include employment law, education law, elder law, disability law, juvenile law, immigration law and more. In Illinois, some of the LSC grantee corporations are: Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Prairie State Legal Services, and Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation.

Especially in metropolitan areas, additional nonprofit legal aid programs may exist, operating either independently or as a component of a larger social service, advocacy, or bar organization. Non-LSC programs may serve a general low income clientele or may target services to certain neighborhoods or client groups. They may handle a general caseload or focus on one or more specific types of cases. Some may serve near-poor or moderate income clients using a sliding-scale fee schedule. All legal aid programs, including those in the LSC system, operate with varied combinations of staff attorneys, volunteer attorneys, and private contract attorneys, as well as varied combinations of private donations, foundation grants, and public funding. A few examples of non-LSC legal aid programs in the Chicago area include: Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, Chicago Legal Clinic, Pro Bono Advocates, Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, AIDS Legal Council, and the Legal Aid Bureau of Metropolitan Family Services.

Public Interest Organizations

Usually chartered as not-for-profit corporations exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, typical public interest law programs focus on a particular subject area and use the law

and legal system to advocate for systemic change such as the establishment of favorable precedent through appellate advocacy; the enforcement of the law through class actions and other high-impact litigation at the trial level; the enactment of favorable legislation and administrative regulations; and the enforcement and implementation of the law through effective government agency action. Lawyers typically engage in litigation, policy analysis, legislative and administrative advocacy, community education, monitoring of institutional actions, and advising and representing individual or group clients. They often participate in community organizing and coalitions with other groups that include both lawyers and non-lawyers. Examples in the Chicago area include: Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, the Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest, the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, and the Roger Baldwin Foundation of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

Public Defender Programs

Public defender offices typically represent defendants charged with felonies and misdemeanors, as well as juveniles charged with delinquency. They may also be authorized to represent parents charged with child abuse and neglect in the juvenile courts, individuals against whom mental commitment proceedings are initiated, respondents in child support collection and paternity proceedings, prisoners in post-conviction and conditions-of-confinement matters, and other defendants in government-instituted proceedings where personal liberty is at stake and/or a constitutional right to counsel exists. Some states operate statewide public defender systems funded by the legislature. More typically, the primary funding responsibility falls to individual counties. Public defender offices are normally government entities, although some jurisdictions may contract with not-for-profit corporations or private attorneys to perform public defender services. Federal Defender offices operate in conjunction with U.S. District Courts. In addition to the Cook County Public Defender, all counties in the Chicago metropolitan area have public defender offices. The Office of the State Appellate Defender handles appeals in the Illinois system, through several regional offices and a Capital Litigation Division.

Prosecutors' Offices

Every county in the country has a public prosecutor, normally an elected official whose primary function is the prosecution of crimes and juvenile court petitions. States use different terms to describe the office, e.g. state's attorney (Illinois), district attorney (Wisconsin), and prosecuting attorney (Indiana). Prosecutors' offices may be authorized to initiate other quasi-criminal or civil proceedings on behalf of the public such as paternity actions, child support enforcement, and mental commitment. They may pursue quasi-criminal or civil actions to enforce environmental, consumer protection, civil rights, or other state or municipal legislation designed to protect the general public or vulnerable populations. In some jurisdictions they handle a variety of transactional and civil matters as legal counsel to county government. In the federal system, the U.S. Attorney's office associated with each U.S. District Court handles general criminal prosecutions and related matters. State attorney general's offices also have roles in criminal prosecution, and some city/town/village counsel's offices may prosecute ordinance violations. In small municipal units, the prosecutorial function may be contracted to a private law office.

Government Agencies

An enormous range of federal, state, county, and local government agencies enforce and implement the law within their jurisdictions. Every state has an attorney general's office with assigned functions, and some state agencies may have their own in-house legal departments. Larger counties, cities and other municipal units typically have staffed legal departments headed by officials usually called city/county attorneys, corporation counsel, or general counsel. Federal agencies account for an enormous range of attorney positions, beginning with the U.S. Department of Justice but by no means ends there.

Legislative Staffs

From the U.S. Congress to state legislatures and larger municipal legislative bodies, attorneys often serve on the staffs of individual legislators or staff legislative committees. Some positions may require a law degree; for others, it may be considered an advantage. Some legislative staff positions are intended as short term (1-2 year) postgraduate experiences but others are career positions. Like judicial clerkships, they may be modestly

compensated at the entry level, but can be a tremendous career-booster for students interested in a career in politics or public policy.

THE JOB MARKET

Don't believe the myth that there are no jobs in public service. While not as large as the private sector, the government and nonprofit sectors are substantial employers of attorneys. Law students who have a genuine commitment to public service accompanied by reasonable expectations, proper preparation, a diligent job search, and some flexibility as to initial location and employer can usually build a rewarding public service career.

As in many other fields, the first position after graduation does not necessarily represent the attainment of one's career goals. As is increasingly true in all areas of law practice, lawyers in public service often do not remain in their first position for more than a few years. The entry level position is a place to gain experience as a lawyer, learn more about public service work, and build a network that takes you to the next stage.

ABOUT COMPENSATION AND DEBT

For the most part, public service lawyers achieve financial success, own cars and houses, take vacations, raise children, repay their educational loans, and save for retirement. Generally, the entry years are the most difficult financially, with careful financial planning and budgeting clearly required.

Expectations are once again the most important consideration, for this is not the most lucrative field of law practice. Each student must judge his or her own level of comfort with the financial limitations in light of the potential satisfactions of public service work.

Generally, in the Chicago area and similar metropolitan areas, entry-level salaries with the larger, established public service employers are typically at least \$40,000. For example, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago currently starts entry-level attorneys at approximately \$46,000. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office starts new attorneys at about \$52,000. Beginning lawyers in the City of Chicago Department of Law start at approximately \$53,000.

You will hear of starting salaries around \$30,000, at small metropolitan legal aid programs and Legal Services programs in smaller cities and rural areas. Some postgraduate fellowships and programs like AmeriCorps pay attorneys less but may be excellent long-term career-builders with some debt relief.

We urge you to utilize opportunities at programs and networking events to talk to recent graduates who have worked in public service positions, to find out how they have managed financially. Because starting compensation varies, and living costs vary in different geographical areas, be sure to check out the facts before concluding that opportunities of interest to you will not pay manageable compensation. These jobs rarely go unfilled and are usually quite competitive, suggesting that people do find ways to manage on the compensation provided.

Loyola has a loan repayment assistance program (LRAP) for recent graduates with high debt loads who are working in eligible public service positions at low salaries. Successful applicants are eligible to receive up to three years of awards within their first five years after graduation. For more information, contact the Office of Career Services, which administers the program. Also, some government offices, public interest employers, and fellowship programs may offer their own loan repayment assistance programs. Other loan forgiveness programs are available. For details, see http://www.luc.edu/law/career/Student_Debt_Relief.html.

Once again, the choice to embark on a career in public service law is an individual one, to be made in light of all the considerations and trade-offs. The point we stress is that real law graduates do this work in spite of its financial limitations, and not only survive, but thrive in their careers and personal lives.

THE PRIVATE PRACTICE OPTION

Students oriented to public service should not ignore the opportunities for career development and meaningful service within the private practice of law. Private practice offers many opportunities to represent clients around issues that relate to the public interest. Additionally, some private public interest law firms exist. They are generally private, for-profit firms that dedicate at least a significant portion of their caseload to matters that have some broad social, political, or economic impact. Some examples of private practice areas and clients of interest to public service oriented attorneys include:

Private lawyers representing:

- Social Security claimants
- Workers' Compensation claimants
- Criminal defendants
- Non-union employees
- Media outlets or arts/entertainment clients around First Amendment issues
- Political parties and candidates around election law issues
- Elderly and disabled clients and their families
- Minority or immigrant clienteles or other clients of modest means
- Not-for-profit corporations
- Local and state government units

Private lawyers who practice in the areas of:

- Immigration
- Family law
- Election law
- Civil Rights
- Labor and employment law
- Education law
- Consumer law
- Disability/Elder Law

Prominent law firms often publicize their *pro bono* activity, to attract top law graduates who want to join a firm that supports public service. The *NALP (National Association for Law Placement) Directory of Legal Employers*, law firms' own publicity material, the legal press, reports from summer associates or lawyers who have worked for the firm are good information sources for evaluating a firm's *pro bono* opportunities. As indicators of solid commitment, look for detailed descriptions of well-structured programs, designated *pro bono* coordinators within the firm, specific examples of recent activity, involvement of partners as well as associates, opportunities for new attorneys to do *pro bono* work, billable-hour credit for *pro bono* work, and financial contributions to legal aid and public interest law offices. One cautionary note: if interviewing to work with a firm, you are free to ask questions about the firm's *pro bono* program; however, the firm is also evaluating your commitment to the firm's work and will not likely hire a candidate whose real desire is to do *pro bono* work full-time.

Additionally, some firms offer their summer associates the opportunity to split their summer with the firm and a public interest organization, with the firm paying the students' salaries for the entire summer. These opportunities are rare and competitive, but do exist for highly motivated students. Another opportunity to combine public interest work with a law firm career is to participate in the PILI Graduate Fellowship Program. This program allows students graduating from law school who are joining a Chicago law firm in the fall to work at a public interest organization in Chicago while studying for the bar exam. New firms are added each year to the program.

PART II: JOB SEARCH TIPS

Just as in successful legal advocacy, preparation is the key to obtaining a satisfactory public service position upon graduation. Although academic achievement is always important, good grades are not enough. Public service employers nearly always expect evidence of commitment to their kind of work, particularly evidence of community service and hands-on exposure to the kinds of clients, issues, and day-to-day activities their practice encompasses.

Fortunately, Loyola offers a wealth of resources to help you prepare for and conduct a successful public service job search. Here are some tips/ideas in planning for a public interest career:

- Don't reject unpaid internship opportunities, especially for your first summer. It's extremely important to show some relevant legal experience as you enter your second year. Whether the work is paid or unpaid is not important to employers. You can combine unpaid work on a part-time basis with any kind of non-legal paying job you can find. If you cannot volunteer at a legal organization, considering volunteering at non-legal organizations that serve the population of interest (e.g. a domestic violence shelter or a school setting). ***But even unpaid work needs to be lined up well before the summer begins, as the best positions usually fill early.*** The counselors in the Office of Career Services can help you.
- Keep in mind that for some popular Chicago area government offices, an internship (volunteer) or externship (for academic credit) *with them* not only assures you consideration for a postgraduate position but is almost essential to getting an entry level job offer.
- Choose co-curricular activities that enhance your resume to public service employers, such as work on relevant journals and publications, other substantive writing and community service activities, and intensive leadership-level activities in relevant organizations.
- Consider organizing your own funding for a school year or summer position via: Federal work study, PILI grants, or PILS grants. More information on these opportunities and additional funding sources are available on our website: http://www.luc.edu/law/career/publicinterest/funds_pub_int_opps.html. Keep in mind that PILS also considers your involvement when awarding funds.
- After completing your second year, apply for your Rule 711 student practice license. The application is online at http://www.state.il.us/court/Administrative/Forms/711/App_711.pdf. You need to have completed 51 credit hours toward your JD before you can appear in court and represent clients under attorney supervision. This is essential for many public interest and government programs.
- If you plan to apply for post-graduate fellowships such as Skadden, Equal Justice Works, or Soros, you will need to have a sponsoring organization and project lined up by late summer of your second year as applications are due in *very* early fall of your third year.
- Consider clinical and externship opportunities when registering for classes in your third year. This is the year to take advantage of Loyola's externship program if you need more field experience or want to try for an inside track with certain employers. With your Rule 711 license (51 credit hours required), a public service externship offers experience very attractive to public service employers and may lead to job opportunities within that organization.

PART III: RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS

KEY JOB REFERENCE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

The handbooks and directories listed in this section provide a sampling of the resources available for public service. Additionally, numerous helpful links can be found on the Public Interest Job Search page of the CSO website: http://www.luc.edu/law/career/Public_Interest_Job_Search_Resources.html.

ONLINE DIRECTORIES

Directories of Public Interest Fellowships

Available: <http://www.pslawnet.org/informationandresources> (You'll need to log into PSLawNet in order to view their fellowship listings. Students register individually on their website and create their own username and password.)

The PSLawNet Fellowship Corner lists fellowships for which law school graduates are eligible, including relevant non-legal fellowships. It also includes the full text of Yale's Fellowship Application Tips, fellowship resources, and an application deadline calendar.

Federal Legal Employment Opportunities Guide

Available: http://www.pslawnet.org/uploads/2008-2009_FLEOG_FINAL_PDF.pdf

Information on available employment opportunities with numerous federal agencies and departments, listing extensive hiring program and contact information.

The University of Arizona Government Honors & Internship Handbook

Available: <http://www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm>

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Published by the University of Arizona Law School, this handbook contains opportunities with federal agencies and some state agencies. Detailed descriptions, application processes, and deadlines are provided.

Opportunities in Public Affairs

Available: <http://www.opajobs.com>

An excellent source of public affairs job openings in the Washington, DC area.

KEY WEBSITES

The internet is a key resource for information about public interest law and job opportunities in public service. The Office of Career Services's website has numerous public interest and government links on the following pages: http://www.luc.edu/law/career/Government_Job_Search_Resources.html (Government) and http://www.luc.edu/law/career/Public_Interest_Job_Search_Resources.html (Public Interest).

Career Services Job Postings

<http://law-luc-csm.symplicity.com/students>

1L students will be sent a Symplicity username and password on November 1st.

This website lists job announcements received by the Office of Career Services. New postings are added nearly everyday. All job postings, including those in public service, are listed here.

Equal Justice Works

<http://www.equaljusticeworks.org>

A good starting point for general information on public interest law from a student perspective, information on Equal Justice Works' summer internship and postgraduate fellowship programs, and links to a number of other useful sites.

Public Service Law Network (PSLawNet)

<http://www.pslawnet.org>

This is a searchable nationwide database of public service opportunities including paid and unpaid student internships, postgraduate fellowships, and postgraduate jobs. Select the Students/Alumni button and follow the prompts for registering to obtain a username and password.

Illinois Pro Bono

<http://www.illinoisprobono.org>

This statewide website gives information on Illinois legal aid agencies, their personnel, what they do, who they serve, their training schedules, and job and volunteer opportunities.

United States Department of Justice (DOJ)

<http://www.usdoj.gov>

A good starting point for federal government opportunities, this website offers links to other federal government agencies and describes the DOJ's own hiring programs for lawyers and law students.

United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

<http://www.opm.gov>

Basic information on federal government employment, plus a searchable database of federal job listings. You may want to check both the legal and administrative job categories. You can also access these postings through www.usajobs.opm.gov.

State of Illinois

<http://www.state.il.us>

The website of the Illinois state government which links to a number of state agencies, many of which post job listings on their websites.

City of Chicago

<http://www.cityofchicago.org>

Provides information on internships and job opportunities with the City of Chicago as well as links to related organizations.

Harvard Law School

<http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/opia>

The Office of Public Interest Advising at Harvard University offers specialty guides about several types of public service career paths on its website.

Alliance for Justice

<http://www.afj.org>

A national association of environmental, civil rights, mental health, women's, children's, and consumer advocacy organizations.

Government Sites

<http://www.washlaw.edu>

A free service of Washburn University School of Law, this website offers links to state, federal, and international government websites as well as directories of law firms, legal associations, law schools, and bar associations.

Non-Profit Positions

<http://www.idealists.org>

This site lists job/internship opportunities in non-profit organizations worldwide. Note that the listings include both legal and alternative legal positions.

BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES & THE LAW LIBRARY

Lawful Pursuit: Careers in Public Interest Law

By Ronald Fox

Available: Law Library Main Stacks

An American Bar Association publication that offers a good initial perspective for career planning.

Pro Bono: Volunteer Opportunities for Attorneys in the Chicago Area

Published by The Chicago Bar Foundation

Available: Office of Career Services

A guide of the many public interest organizations in the Chicagoland area that are in need of pro bono attorneys and a great place to find organizations that might be in need of law student interns, volunteers, or law clerks.

The Comprehensive Fellowship Guide: the Ultimate Resource for Law Students and Lawyers

Published by PSLawNet

Available: Office of Career Services

A print resource that includes hundreds of fellowship listings culled from the PSLawNet website, along with application tips and a deadline calendar.

Public Service and International Law: A Guide to Professional Opportunities in the United States and Abroad

A joint project of Yale Law School and Harvard Law School

Available: Office of Career Services

A guide that explores international public service opportunities in both the United States and abroad.

Jobs and Careers with Non-Profit Organizations

By Ron & Caryl Kirannich, Ph.D.s

Available: Office of Career Services

A guide to job searching in the public sector, this book includes many examples of the types of organizations you may encounter in a public interest job search. The listings in this book are not exhaustive, but it is a great place to start!

The Directory of Legal Aid and Defender Offices in the United States

Published by NLADA

Available: Law Library Main Stacks

Lists National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) member organizations by state, including legal aid offices, public defender offices, and specialized programs.

Sullivan's Law Directory

Available: Office of Career Services and Law Library Reference Section

A state directory of Illinois lawyers, legal organizations, courts, and government law offices. The center section lists federal, state, county, and City of Chicago agencies that employ lawyers. Each state has at least one similar legal directory, published by the state bar or by a private company.

KEY SUMMER PROGRAMS

Although these are by no means the only sources of summer jobs and internships in public service, the following are important organized programs for obtaining summer positions and funding for summer public interest work, which we urge Loyola students to pursue. Summer public service work after the first year of law school is an appropriate way for all students to gain resume-enhancing legal experience through meaningful service. For students seeking postgraduate careers in public service, appropriate community experience is

essential, and it is even more important to take advantage of the vital opportunity presented after two years of law school (specifically, 51 credit hours) when eligible for a student practice license under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711 and comparable provisions in many other states.

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

The PILI Summer Internship program places students in designated Chicago area public interest organizations selected by the PILI board. A PILI Intern (1L or 2L) receives a \$5,000 stipend for ten weeks of full time summer work and participates in weekly educational programs. Application materials are available on their website, www.pili-law.org. Students should apply in mid-October through early December to assure consideration, although the final deadline is early March.

PILI also has a Fellows program for law graduates who accepted offers with law firms that allow them to work at a PILI approved agency while studying for the bar.

Public Interest Law Society (PILS) Summer Fellowships

The PILS Fellowships program is Loyola's own, funded through the PILS Auction and other fundraising activities of the Public Interest Law Society. Any interested student may apply for a grant after obtaining a position at a sponsoring organization. Applications are reviewed and recipients selected by a committee consisting of faculty members, students, and administrators. In recent years, PILS fundraising has supported 10-12 grants to first and second year students who have worked in nonprofit and governmental law offices nationwide and even internationally. Applications are available in the early spring.

Equal Justice Works Summer Corps

This nationwide program, co-sponsored by Equal Justice Works and Americorps, places law students in summer positions throughout the country, primarily in civil legal assistance organizations with an emphasis on non-metropolitan settings. It pays a loan reduction award of \$1,000. Details can be found online at www.equaljusticeworks.org.

Equal Justice America

This program provides fellowships to students working in organizations providing direct civil legal services to the poor. Information is available on their website for spring, summer, and fall fellowships. They sponsor fellowships at the Chicago Legal Clinic, Aids Legal Council, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, and Lifespan Center for Legal Services. For further information, see their website at www.equaljusticeamerica.org.

KEY POSTGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

A good way to develop your public service career is through a postgraduate fellowship, which is usually a one- or two-year position for a new law graduate, recent law graduate, recent graduate completing a judicial clerkship, and sometimes more experienced lawyers. Some fellowship programs operate like funding sources, that is, you propose a project with an organization of your choice, consistent with the program's guidelines. Others are special positions working for a specific organization or law school. Pay is usually modest but adequate, and the fellowships are often prestigious resume-builders that develop your experience and contacts, thereby leading to good positions afterward. The following are by no means the only sources of postgraduate fellowship funding but are important national programs you will hear mentioned and should know about. The Office of Career Services website is another resource to consult in learning about fellowships.

Equal Justice Works Fellowships

Graduating students or judicial clerks are eligible to apply for these two year fellowships. The program supports approximately 100 fellows. Applications must be submitted through their website, www.equaljusticeworks.org. Applications are due in early September.

Skadden Fellowship Foundation

Financed by the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom, this program funds projects proposed jointly with a public interest organization. It awards about 25 fellowships per year nationwide, for two year positions. An application can be found online at www.skaddenfellowships.org.

Soros Justice Fellowships

Through George Soros's Open Society Institute, postgraduate fellows work in criminal justice proposing their own projects with existing government or nonprofit organizations in the United States or abroad. See www.soros.org for more information.

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps

Through the Pro Bono Legal Corps, law graduates participate in a one-year, community-based postgraduate position which pays a small living stipend of \$30,000 - \$40,000 (depending on the site) along with \$4,725 for educational loan repayment at the completion of service as well as health care insurance and child care assistance. Positions are available at sixteen host legal aid organizations. Details are available at <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/programs/amicorps/general>.

Three additional sources of good information about legal and law-related postgraduate fellowships are:

- www.pslawnet.org
- www.illinoislegalaid.org
- www.illinoisprobono.org

KEY ANNUAL EVENTS

Below is a summary of the main annual events in which Loyola law students interested in public service careers should participate as appropriate.

Judicial Clerkship Workshops

Mid-spring (2Ls should attend)

Discussion of how to pursue a judicial clerkship, which is an excellent short term (1-2 year) postgraduate opportunity for all students and especially those interested in public service.

Public Service Convocation

Early Fall

Hosted by the Dean of the School of Law, the Convocation honors and exemplary public service law practitioner, presents a distinguished keynote speaker from the private bar who discusses *pro bono* service, and introduces public service opportunities at Loyola. Mandatory for 1Ls.

Equal Justice Works Career Fair and Conference

Mid-October in Washington, DC

Organized by Equal Justice Works, this conference includes speakers and workshops about public interest law subjects and careers, a table talk session with over 100 public interest employers that send representatives and literature, the opportunity to submit resumes in advance to seek job interviews, an awards dinner, and training for leaders of law school Equal Justice Works chapters such as Loyola's Public Interest Law Society. Students may receive financial assistance to attend.

Meet the Public Service Organizations Reception

Early November

Sponsored by the Chicago Area Law School Consortium, this reception gathers attorneys from Chicago area nonprofit and government law offices to meet informally with law students.

Practice Tracks

January

This table talk event offers the opportunity to meet several dozen Chicago area attorneys who practice in a wide variety of legal subject areas and settings. Excellent for exploring both private sector and public service career options.

Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference (MPILCC)

<http://mpilcc.uchicago.edu>

Early February

Nonprofit and government employers from primarily Midwest states gather to interview students for both summer and postgraduate opportunities. This career fair offers the opportunity to submit resumes for scheduled interviews at the conference and to seek unclaimed interview slots on the day of the event. Additional informal networking opportunities are also available.

PILS Auction

Mid-February

A fundraiser for the Public Interest Law Society, the proceeds of this event go to support PILS Summer Fellowships for Loyola students.

Judicial Externship Info Sessions

Mid-February

If you're interested in working for a judge during your first summer, be sure to attend one of the judicial externship information sessions in the spring semester.

IN CONCLUSION

Working in public service is a great privilege and opportunity as a member of the legal profession, whether performed as a full time career or as a supplemental professional activity. The Office of Career Services is here to help you realize your public service goals. Please use this guide as a starting point and take advantage of the wealth of resources available to you through Loyola and the Chicago community. We wish you every success in your efforts.