

## Public Interest Programs and Resources

*Yale Law School is a community firmly committed to the belief that the law is a public calling and the public interest must be every lawyer's concern. The extraordinary variety of public interest programs at the Yale Law School, chronicled in this brochure, attest to this foundational principle. Everyone at Yale Law School seeks to apply her or his talents and skills to serve the public interest as she or he understands it. We have long been, and will always be, a private institution dedicated to public service.*

—Dean Harold Hongju Koh

### Career Services

Yale Law School's Career Development Office (CDO) provides an array of public interest services to students and alumni.

- Leading public interest attorneys from across the country, many of them Yale Law School (YLS) graduates, are regularly invited to give talks on careers in their areas of practice and on how they achieved their career successes.
- Through the Mentors-in-Residence Program, YLS graduates and other law school visitors who have been successful in public interest careers, spend a day on campus providing individual counseling sessions to students in their areas of expertise.
- CDO attorney counselors, who specialize in public service careers and fellowship opportunities, are available to advise and counsel students and graduates.
- CDO organizes an annual Public Interest Student Career Fair, at which second- and third-year students who have worked in public interest jobs over the summer share their experiences with interested students.
- CDO conducts two interview programs each year, where over 40 public interest and government employers register to recruit Yale students.
- YLS sponsors student attendance at the Equal Justice Works Career Fair and Conference (EJW), and the NYU Public Interest Career Fair, where students can interview with a wide range of public interest employers.
- YLS subsidizes students' public interest job searches through travel subsidies to the EJW and NYU Career Fairs, as well as necessary telephone and fax reimbursements.
- Membership in PSLawNet allows Yale students to access a database of public interest organizations and opportunities nationwide.
- CDO has also created TRI PI (Travel Reimbursement Interviews for Public Interest) which reimburses 2Ls and 3Ls for travel expenses, up to \$400, for travel to public interest fellowship and job interviews

- YLS Career Connections offers Yale law students and graduates the opportunity to network with graduates who have offered to provide career-related advice. The Career Connections' members can be searched by name, area of expertise, employer type, geographic location, and more.
- CDO maintains a web-based database of job listings, including public service jobs listings, for summer, entry level and graduate opportunities.
- The CDO library of public interest resources includes directories, inspirational books, how-to guides, and an up-to-date listing of valuable websites for public interest students.
- CDO produces a number of public interest guides, including: *Public Interest Fellowships*, *International Public Interest Law*, *Environmental Law*, *Public Interest Careers*, *Criminal Prosecution*, and *Working on Capitol Hill*.
- Yale CDO is a leader in recognizing the importance of public interest post-graduate fellowships as an entry into public interest careers, and in providing information and guidance on applying for these positions. Each year several YLS students and graduates obtain such prestigious fellowships as Skadden, Georgetown, EJW and ACLU.

## Centers and Programs

The Liman Program sponsors an annual public interest colloquium and involves students in pro bono and public interest work with the Liman fellows.

The Schell Center coordinates a diverse program of human rights activities that serve students and scholars at Yale and contributes to the growth and development of the human rights community locally and internationally. The Center sponsors talks, panels and symposia; offers academic and clinical courses on international human rights; and provides summer human rights fellowships.

## Pro Bono Network

The Pro Bono Network (PBN) is a student organization facilitated by CDO that matches students with pro bono projects during the academic year. In 2008-2009, PBN matched 31 students with 39 projects from a variety of public interest organizations. PBN can be reached at [probono@yale.edu](mailto:probono@yale.edu) or (203) 432-7224.

## Student Organizations

Yale Law School has many student organizations that demonstrate the wide range of interests and the commitment to public service among students. Many student groups provide traditional legal aid to members of the New Haven community, such as the Temporary Restraining Order Project, which helps victims of domestic violence obtain court protection from abuse. Others provide less traditional legal services such as Students United against Genocide in Darfur, which launched an advocacy campaign to bring media attention to the problem, and the Yale Chapter of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, which works with the Yale University administration on issues of licensing Yale developed therapies.

In addition, some student groups provide non-legal community services. For instance, several members of the Latino/a Law Students Association regularly volunteer at a local soup kitchen, and the Yale Law Christian Fellowship organization hosts an annual toy drive for local children who have incarcerated parents.

Other student organizations at Yale performing public service include: American Constitution Society; Black Law Students Association; Catholic Law Students' Association; College Acceptance; Green Haven Prison Project; Health Law Partnership for Families; Initiative for Public Interest Law at Yale; Jewish Law Students Association; Lowenstein Human Rights Project; Rebellious Lawyering Conference; San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project; Yale Incentive Program for Public Interest Employment; Yale Law Republicans; Yale Law Students for Life; Yale Law Women; and the Yale Student Animal Legal Defense Fund.

For descriptions of these groups' public service activities, see *Yale Law School in the Public Service* at [www.law.yale.edu/cdo](http://www.law.yale.edu/cdo) under *Resources* or the law school's public interest website, accessible from [www.law.yale.edu](http://www.law.yale.edu).

## Clinical Programs

The Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization (LSO) links law students with low-income individuals and groups in need of legal help. LSO's clinics are: Advocacy for Children and Youth; Capital Punishment; Community Development Financial Institutions/Community and Economic Development; Complex Federal Litigation; Domestic Violence; Education Adequacy Project; Immigration; Landlord/Tenant; Lawyering Ethics; Legal Assistance; Legal Services for Immigrant Communities; Legislative Advocacy; and Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic. For information contact LSO at (203) 432-4800.

Additional clinical programs within the Yale Law School include Lowenstein International Human Rights Law, Balancing Civil Liberties and National Security After 9/11, Environmental Protection, Lawyering Ethics, Prosecution Externship Program, and the Nonprofit Organizations Clinic.

For descriptions of the clinics' recent work, see *Yale Law School in the Public Service* at [www.law.yale.edu/cdo](http://www.law.yale.edu/cdo) under Publications or the law school's public interest website, accessible from [www.law.yale.edu](http://www.law.yale.edu).

## Externships

Through the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization students may work for a semester at the New Haven Legal Assistance Association, or take a semester long externship with either of two local prosecutor's offices: the New Haven State's Attorney, or the U.S. Attorney. For information on the New Haven Legal Assistance externship contact Francis Dineen at (203) 432-7803. For information on prosecution externships contact Jay Pottenger at (203) 432-4821.

## Summer Job Funding

Every year approximately 40% of Yale law students seeking summer work decide to take positions with a government or public interest entity. Yale Law School's Summer Public Interest Fellowships (SPIF) provide funding for all needy Yale law students who choose to work in a government or public interest organization that is unable to pay their salary for the summer. The stipends provide up to \$500 per week for up to 12 weeks. In the summer of 2007, this program provided 117 YLS students with approximately \$540,000 to fund their summer public interest work. In addition, the Financial Aid Office will provide eligible students with a loan of up to \$350 for interview clothing. For information on funding see the Financial Aid section of the law school website at [www.law.yale.edu](http://www.law.yale.edu).

The Mary A. McCarthy Memorial Fund and Howard M. Holtzmann Endowment for International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution provide summer funds for students. These programs have provided funding primarily to students who are not eligible for SPIF (e.g. third-years) or for special project needs that would not be covered by SPIF. Contact the Office of Student Affairs at (203) 432-7646 for information.

The Schell Center's Kirby Simon Fellowship provides travel grants to students conducting international human rights work. For information on this fellowship, contact Jim Silk at (203) 432-1729.

## Post-Graduate Fellowships

The Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellowship and Fund provides one year of funding for a public service project by YLS graduates. For information contact Sarah Russell at (203) 432-2230 or consult [www.law.yale.edu/liman](http://www.law.yale.edu/liman).

Robert L. Bernstein Fellowships are awarded annually to two to three YLS graduates devoting one year to full-time human rights work. The fellowship is administered by the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights at the law school. For information on this fellowship, contact [schell.law@yale.edu](mailto:schell.law@yale.edu).

The Heyman Federal Public Service Fellowship Program supports recent YLS graduates who wish to work closely with high-level leaders in the federal government for one year, either through an existing position or through a "special assistantship." To find out more information about this fellowship, contact Sheila Hayre at [sheila.hayre@yale.edu](mailto:sheila.hayre@yale.edu) or Megan Barnett at [megan.barnett@yale.edu](mailto:megan.barnett@yale.edu).

For other Yale fellowship information see the *Yale Public Interest Fellowship Opportunities* brochure in CDO.

## Loan Repayment Assistance

The Career Options Assistance Program (COAP) provides grants to graduates earning a modest income to cover school loans, thus eliminating the major obstacle to graduates undertaking public interest careers. COAP provides full loan repayment to any and all graduates who earn less than \$60,000 a year (more with deductions) and partial repayment for those with salaries quite a bit higher. COAP has provided more than \$23 million in funds to YLS graduates since 1988. In 2007, COAP provided over \$2.4 million in loan forgiveness to 300 YLS graduates. For information on COAP see the Financial Aid section of the Yale Law School website at [www.law.yale.edu](http://www.law.yale.edu).

## Law Journals

Yale has several journals that address the public interest. These are the *Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal*, the *Yale Journal of International Law*, the *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism*, the *Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law & Ethics*, and the *Yale Law & Policy Review*.