Yellow Resource Sheet

Legal Aid and Fellowship Resources

Networking Events, Job Fairs and Other Important Dates

Year Long: Career Services Office Programming, such as Exploring Careers in Legal Aid, Exploring Careers in Criminal Defense, Preparing your Public Interest Law Initiative Application, Preparing for MPILCC, Public Interest Law Firms, Alternative Careers in Public Interest Law, and Fellowships.

August
- Fall On Campus Interviewing
  Check the list of participating employers! Some public defender offices and government agencies interview on campus for both law clerk and entry-level attorney positions.

- Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair
  Held each year in October in or near Washington, D.C., this event features a national career fair as well as public interest and social justice workshops. Chicago-Kent also hosts a reception to connect students who attend with alums working in the area. Students register and begin to apply for interviews in August.
  Conference: Friday & Saturday, October 25 – 26, 2013, Arlington, Virginia

September
- Explore the Possibilities: Public Interest Law and Pro Bono Placements
  This annual event held at Chicago-Kent, features both a panel presentation and an opportunity to engage in roundtable discussion with legal aid and government lawyers. Sponsored by the Chicago Area Law School Consortium, the Public Interest Law Initiative and Phi Alpha Delta.

October
- Young Lawyers Section (YLS), Chicago Bar Association Pro Bono Fair
  Held during pro bono week each year, useful for law students looking for pro bono opportunities and to network with local legal aid employers. Watch the Record for date information.

- Public Interest Law Initiative www.pili-law.org
  Applications for second year students open this month. Each year, PILI financially supports first and second year law students in designated Chicago area public interest organizations, with $5000 summer stipends. A limited number of semester positions are also available, with a $2500 stipend awarded for these positions.

November
- Meet the Public Service Employers
  Held each year at Loyola Law School, this event features public interest employers from the Chicagoland area.

- Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference: registration begins and continues until early December; email Allison Smith at asmith16@kentlaw.iit.edu to sign up, and watch the Record for details.

February
- Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference
  Held each year at Northwestern Law School, this conference draws employers from around the country for both informal table talk sessions and interviews for clerk and attorney positions.
Job Searches: Websites and Other Resources

Though by no means an exhaustive list, these websites are highly recommended for a public interest job search.
- Symplicity, Chicago-Kent College of Law, https://law-kent-csm.symplicity.com/students
- PSJD, Pathway to Public Service Legal Careers, www.psjd.org
- Idealist, www.idealista.org
- National Legal Aid & Defender Association, www.nlada.org/jobop.htm
- Foundation Center, www.foundationcenter.org
- Ethical Jobs.net (password protected; see Symplicity document library)
- Human Rights Jobs.net (password protected; see Symplicity document library)

Symplicity’s Document Library:
- Public Interest Handbooks: 1L, 2L and 3L
- Public Defender Handbook
- International Guide and Job Resource

Financing a Public Interest Career

PSJD → Resource Center → Funding & Debt
Equal Justice Works → I want to learn about student debt relief

While in Law School:
- Public Interest Law Initiative (www.pili-law.org)
- Kent Justice Foundation
- Equal Justice Works Summer Corps (www.equaljusticeworks.org/law-school/summercorps)
- Equal Justice America Legal Service Fellowships (www.equaljusticeamerica.org)
- Community Based Federal Work Study
  http://www.kentlaw.edu/depts/cso/students/publicinterest/fws.html

After Law School:
Chicago-Kent Loan Repayment Assistance Program: http://www.kentlaw.edu/publicinterest/lrap/
Federal Loan Forgiveness (after 10 years in Public Service)
John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Programs (prosecutors/public defenders)

Fellowship Information

- Educate yourself about relevant potential sponsors through PSJD (www.psjd.org) and fellowship websites (e.g. www.skaddenfellowships.org, www.equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/equal-justice-works-fellowships)
- Determine whether organization you are interested in has sponsored fellows before.
- Contact potential organization sponsors; solidify organization sponsorship as early as possible.