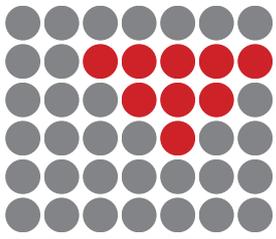


2024
Public
Interest
Awards
Night

Chicago-Kent College of Law

Public Interest Center

April 16, 2024



Welcome from the Director of the Public Interest Center



Welcome to the 2024 Public Interest Awards - I am so glad you are here celebrating with us. This has been a year of growth for the Public Interest Center. We start the school year in August with Public Service Day. At Public Service Day we grew our community partners from 12 last year to 15 this year; we used public transportation to traverse the city - instead of private buses; and we engaged 20 upper division law students as volunteers to assist the first-year law students. It was an incredible day in that the relationships formed between the students and the nonprofit organizations led to volunteer opportunities that persisted throughout the school year.

In Fall 2022, at Public Service Day our Chicago-Kent first year law students had the opportunity to take the Pro Bono Pledge for the first time - committing to complete 50 hours of volunteer service during law school. Just over 50% of the students took the pledge. In Fall 2023, we invited the new class of incoming law students to take the pledge - and in this first year class, 74.4% are participating.

We have increased the number of regular pro bono activities that our students can participate in throughout the year. We deepened our partnership with this year's Ronald W. Staudt Public Interest Partner, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, through regularly scheduled guardian ad litem trainings - through which our students are using their 711 licenses to represent child clients in court. We continued to hold monthly asylum clinics with last year's Public Interest Partner Award-Winner, the Children's Legal Center. We were invited by Legal Aid Chicago to partner with them in their civil legal aid clinic in the Austin community, and a group of seven first-year law students stepped up to volunteer.

We have also increased our encouragement of the tracking of service hours and increased the incentives to do so. For the first time this year, we are recognizing a graduating student with the "Pro Bono Leader Award." We added a new award category this year - the Dean's Exemplary Service Award, for 400+ hours of service - and an impressive group of 9 students are receiving it.

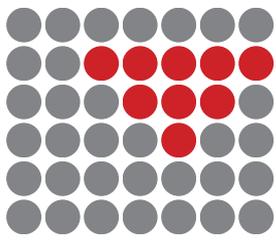
We are proud to be fulfilling our Mission to increase pro bono and community service and support careers in public interest law for Chicago-Kent students, while expanding access to justice in the community. Our goal is to engage every Chicago-Kent student in at least 50 hours of pro bono during law school, helping to foster a mindset of using legal skills to give to others that will hopefully last their entire professional career.

I hope you consider donating to the Public Interest Center or joining our pro bono efforts. Our work will continue to get stronger thanks to your engagement.

Thank you again for your support, and I hope to see you again next year.

Michelle Vodenik

Michelle Vodenik
Director, Public Interest Center



Program

Welcome

Anita Krug, Dean and Professor of Law

Public Interest Center Highlights

Michelle Vodenik, Director, Public Interest Center

Certificate in Public Interest Law

Carolyn Shapiro, Director of Public Interest Certificate Program

Law Lab

Alexander Rabanal '12, Associate Director, The Law Lab

Public Interest Center Certificate of Service

Dean's Distinguished Public Service Award

Dean's Exemplary Public Service Award

Michelle Vodenik, Director, Public Interest Center

2024 Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Award

Michelle Vodenik, Director, Public Interest Center

John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship

Nancy Marder, Director, Justice John Paul Stevens Jury Center

Patent Hub Volunteers

Paul Holly, Director, Patent Hub

Alvin H. Baum Fellows

Keith I. Harley '88, Co-Director, Program in Environmental and Energy Law

Student Recognition

Michelle Vodenik, Director, Public Interest Center

2024 Vivien C. Gross Pro Bono and Public Interest Leadership Award

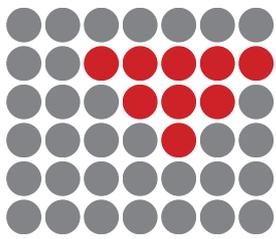
Michelle Vodenik, Director, Public Interest Center

2024 Ronald W. Staudt Public Interest Partner Award

Michelle Vodenik, Director, Public Interest Center

Closing Remarks

Anita Krug, Dean and Professor of Law



Public Interest Center Highlights

Pro Bono Pledge Takers:

2023: 121 students

2024: 186 students

Increase: 54%

Student Hours Logged:

2022-23: 4,230 hours

2023-24: 7,720 hours

Increase: 83%

of Student Volunteers:

2022-23: 131 student volunteers

2023-24: 263 student volunteers

Increase: 100%

of Opportunities/Organizations:

2022-23: 81 opportunities/organizations

2023-24: 112 opportunities/organizations

Increase: 38%

Public Interest Center Student Workers

Joseph Strom

Rhys Green

Azlynn Brandenburg



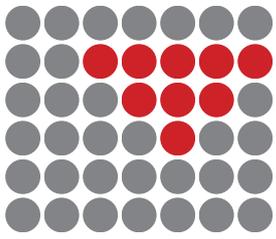
Joseph



Rhys



Azlynn



Student Public Interest Recognition

Certificate in Public Interest Law, Class of 2024 Recipients

Emile Boghos
Sylvie Durlacher
Megan Hovde
Elizabeth Lerum
Jacob Marshall
Berenice Martinez
Amanda Miller
Nouh Tekle
Nicholas Valdivia

Center for Access to Justice and Technology

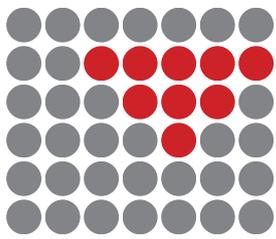
2023-2024 Self-Help Resource Center Student Volunteers

Supervising Manager: Nat Lewis
Resources Manager: Dulcie Xue
Associate Manager: Annie Poggioli
Training Manager: Riley Mullen

Abigail Hagan
Alex Gianneschi
Alexandra Bogner
Alexandria Jaworski
Allyson Weubbe
Allyssa Quiroga
Anna Warfield
Azlynn Brandenburg
Ben Bildsten
Brennan Gron
Cameron Kleen
Clarice Fisher
Colin Boysen
Colleen Christensen
Dulcie Xue
Ellen Braid
Gabriela Treviño

Glen Batista
Haneen Abdelhafez
Isabella Andreano
Ivana Bailey
Jacqueline Garcia
Jake Marshall
Jonathan Roeser
Karan Manohar
Kylie Gava
Lillie Reicher
MariaJose Rijo De La Hoz
Mary Hester
Marissa Nugent
Matthew Foote
Maxwell Ransom
Megan Hovde
Melissa McCollum

Millicent Kochman-Sabbatino
Nektaria Bloom
Nina Wilson
Rebecca Fauver
Riley Mullen
Rose Brownstone-Questel
Samantha Thomas
Sanya Khan
Sasha Silversteyn
Savannah Yamat
Season Walker
Seema Kareemi
Shmuel Wyckoff
Sophie Ilunga
Taylor Horton
Vivian Kiliyas



Student Public Interest Recognition

Public Interest Center (PIC)

Certificate of Service

Awarded to students who have volunteered 50 or more hours over the last academic year.

AK Alilonu, 83

Kathryn Alle, 56

Melissa Avila, 61

Ivana Bailey, 52

Azlynn Brandenburg, 52

Miles Bravo, 50

Kelsea Brown, 120

Rose Brownstone-Questel, 58

Ariella Campisi, 96

Colleen Christianson, 56

Nico Columbo, 147

Tricia Crabtree, 81

Allison Elli, 133

Clarice Fisher, 51

Charles Florance, 51

Matthew Foote, 136

Danesha Garner, 51

Kylie Gava, 103

Megan Hovde, 57

Seema Kareemi, 158

Cameron Kleen, 57

Sophie Ilunga, 51

Jake Marshall, 80

Melissa McCollum, 86

Marissa Nugent, 103

Audrey Park, 119

Annie Poggioli, 61

Danielle Taylor, 70

Nouh Tekle, 53

Abigail Tellez, 62

Samantha Thomas, 77

Nancy Whaley, 101

Robert White, 50

Nina Wilson, 51

Savannah Yamat, 51

Dean's Distinguished Public Service Award

Awarded to students who have volunteered 250 or more hours over the last academic year.

Alexandra Fryer, 2L, 270 hours

Berenice Martinez, 3L, 251 hours

Amanda Miller, 3L, 351 hours

Joseph Strom, 2L, 308 hours

Katherine Withers, 3L, 272 hours

Dulcie Xue, 2L, 261 hours

Dean's Exemplary Public Service Award

Awarded to students who have volunteered 400 or more hours over the last academic year.

Alexis Endres, 3L, 509 hours

Corey Hamilton-Bouis, 2L, 432 hours

Isaac Harnden, 3L, 451 hours

Christopher Lazare, 2L, 562 hours

Margaret Miles, 3L, 547 hours

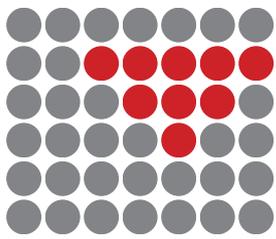
Blythe Pabon, 3L, 433 hours

Alisha Panthier, 3L, 689 hours

Jonathan Potter, 3L, 458 hours

Pro Bono Leader Award

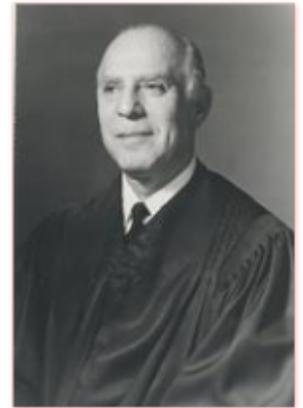
Emile Boghos, 3L, 812 hours



Alumni Public Interest Recognition

Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Public Interest Law Award

Chicago-Kent College of Law enjoys a rich tradition of legal activism and public interest work. In honor of one of our most renowned alumni in this field, each year Chicago-Kent awards the Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Public Interest Law Award to alumni who have graduated in the last 15 years and who have demonstrated outstanding public interest leadership, reflecting" the character, life, and work of Judge Marovitz '25.



The Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz '25

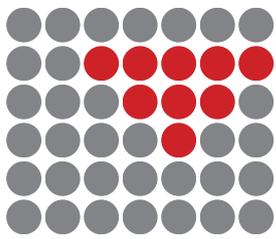
U.S. District Court Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz passed away on March 17, 2001 after serving as a government prosecutor, state senator, and state and federal judge. He saw active duty as a Marine in World War II, swore in more new U.S. citizens than any judge in the country, administered the oath of office to both Mayor Daleys, and escorted World's Fair fan dancer Sally Rand to the opening of the Palmer House's Empire Room in 1933.

2024 Marovitz Award Recipient

Veronica Cortez, Class of 2013



Verónica Cortez is the associate director of policy for Erikson Institute, Where she examines the efficacy of existing local and state early childhood policies and serves as a thought partner with other stakeholders, generating strategies and proposing solutions to advance policy and systems change for Illinois' youngest learners. Cortez also facilitates a fellowship program focused on preparing early childhood leaders to become involved in policy so that those who are most involved in the work can think about the policy solutions needed. Cortez began her legal career at the Midwest office of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where she worked on federal litigation and administrative advocacy in the areas of employment, voting rights, education, and immigrant rights. After that, she led the early childhood policy and advocacy work at the Shriver Center on Poverty Law. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law and has a bachelor's in international relations and Hispanic studies from Brown University. She currently serves on the board of directors at Alternatives, Erie Neighborhood House, and the Albert Pick, Jr. Fund.



Student Public Interest Recognition

Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship Recipients

The Stevens Public Interest Summer Fellowship at Chicago-Kent seeks to promote the public interest and social justice values that characterized Justice John Paul Stevens's work throughout his long career. The Stevens Fellowship at Chicago-Kent was established in 2011 and is awarded to two outstanding law students who have obtained unpaid summer positions at public interest organizations. Stevens Fellows are selected based on their commitment to public service and their potential for excellence throughout their legal careers. Stevens Fellows at Chicago-Kent are part of a large network of Stevens Fellows throughout the country.

Kylie Gava '26, Center for Disability and Elder Law

Nicolette Gordillo-LaRiviere '26, Women's Justice Institute and Ascend Justice

2023-2024 Alvin H. Baum Fellows

Collaboration between Chicago-Kent, the Greater Chicago Legal Clinic, and the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund.

Madeline Cintron

Annamarie Clobuciar

Brandon Holifield

Stephen Junge

Ari Lieberman

Lydia Lieberman

Jennifer Russell

Katherine Withers

2023-2024 Chicago-Kent Patent Hub Student Volunteers

Adam Steslicki

Jared London

Alexander Sudrzynski

Katelyn Holcomb

Alexandria Jaworski

Sanya Khan

Anika Fischer

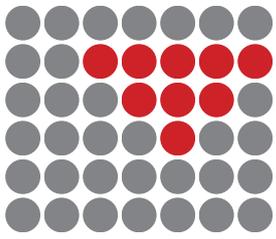
Savannah Yamat

Ethan Tibb

Seema Kareemi

Harriet Fitzgerald

Sultan Alzahrani



Student Public Interest Recognition

Constitutional Democracy Project Volunteers

Abota Constitution Day

Ivana Bailey
James Berg*
Colin Boysen
Nick Brighty
Daniel Brooks
Abigail Fraser*
Mariana Guerra
Dawson Hobbs
Niko Little
Jordan Madden
Noel Kahlan
Jonathan Panton
Elizabeth Pegler
George Rapidis
Mark Tamvakis*
Luke Winberry
Keaton Wright
Emily Stockhus

2023 You(th) Decide

Ricardo Alvarez
Matt Brendza
John Debbie
Joseph Strom*
Rachel Eun
Joshua Geiger
Sophie Ilunga
James Jezierny*
Lauren Justice
Seema Kareemi
Nick Manaligod
Riley Mullen
Jonathan Potter
Samantha Thomas*
Micah Villaneuva
Grace Wickstrom
Nina Wilson
Katherine Withers

We the People Judges/Facilitators

Paul Ansani
Josh Melton

Equal Justice Under Law

Kostiantyn Sheiko

**Volunteered for multiple projects*

3L Non-Profit Board Leadership

Berenice Martinez

Associates Board Co-chair, Latinos Progresando

Haya Muhammad

Founder and President, KxP Campaigns

Equal Justice Works Leadership

Nicole Jansma, '23

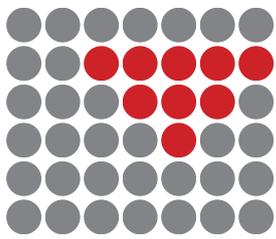
Member, National Advisory Committee

Alisha Panthier, 3L

Member, Regional Public Interest Award

Kent Justice Foundation Summer Fellowship Recipients

Abigail Tellez, Legal Aid Society of San Diego
Azlynn Brandenburg, Women's Justice Institute & Ascend Justice
Alexa Baczak, Florida Legal Aid
Benjamin Bildsten, Cook County Public Defender's Office
Colleen McCormack, DuPage County State's Attorney
Dan Luiton, Texas Rio Grande Valley Legal Aid
Karan Manohar, Judicial Internship
Marissa Nugent, Cook County State's Attorney
Mary Hester, Legal Aid Chicago
Melissa McCollum, Cook County State's Attorney
Olivia Harris, Equip for Equality
Rhys Green, Cook County Public Defender's Office
Taylor Horton, Cook County Office of the Public Guardian
Trevor Guidry, Cook County Public Defender's Office



Public Interest Leadership Award

2024 Vivien C. Gross Pro Bono & Public Interest Leadership Award

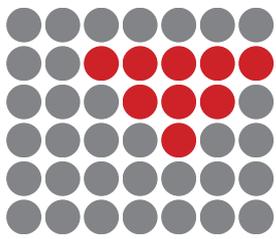


The Vivien C. Gross Pro Bono & Public Interest Leadership Award recognizes a graduating law student who has made outstanding contributions to public interest law through their pro bono contributions as well as leadership. The award, formerly known as the "Pro Bono & Community Service Leadership Award" has been renamed this year to honor Professor Gross for her significant contributions to public interest law.

2024 Recipient of the Vivien C. Gross Pro Bono & Public Interest Award: Jacob Marshall



This year's winner of this special award is Jacob "Jake" Marshall. Jake has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to Public Interest Law that began prior to law school when he worked for many years as a housing justice/tenants rights advocate and organizer with the Autonomous Tenants Union in Albany Park. He continued to serve his community throughout law school as an organizer with 33rd Ward Working Families, where he is involved in affordable housing, immigration reform, and police reform. As a law student, he has worked with the Law Center for Better Housing and the National Lawyers Guild, as well as contributing over 40 hours of service to assisting pro se litigants at the Self Help Resource Center. Jake's breadth of pro bono experience includes poverty law work, understanding cases that come before the 1L Human Rights Commission, lawyering with Beyond Legal Aid, and housing practice with Legal Aid Chicago. Jake is a leader at the law school, serving on the boards of the Kent Justice Foundation and National Lawyers Guild. He also serves as a teaching assistant for legal writing classes. Jake graduates with the Public Interest Law Certificate and has a vision to repurpose abandoned buildings into migrant housing, continuing to pave the way for a promising and impactful career ahead.



Public Interest Partner Award

2024 Ronald W. Staudt Public Interest Partner Award



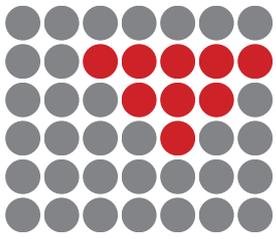
The Ronald W. Staudt Public Interest Partner Award at Chicago-Kent College of Law recognizes organizations that make outstanding contributions to public interest law and provide opportunities for Chicago-Kent students to gain meaningful experience in public interest practice. In 2017, we changed the name of the award to the Ronald W. Staudt Public Interest Partner Award in honor of Professor Staudt's retirement and his dedication to public interest.

2024 Recipient of the Ronald W. Staudt Public Interest Partner Award: Chicago Volunteer Legal Service



CVLS is being recognized for their important work providing pro bono civil legal aid for over 58 years in Chicago. Their innovative model of leveraging the skills of 2,000 volunteer attorneys (and law students) every year to meet the civil legal needs of those who can not

afford a lawyer exponentially grows the amount of cases they are able to handle. In addition, we appreciate the many opportunities CVLS has provided to Chicago-Kent students to engage in work with them over the years, particularly initiatives like the Minor Guardian ad Litem program, which provides valuable training opportunities for law students. CVLS's involvement in events like Public Service Day further strengthens their ties with Chicago-Kent, facilitating student engagement in meaningful pro bono work. Through collaborations with alumni and initiatives like the immigration program, CVLS continues to expand its impact, offering valuable opportunities for students to intern and volunteer while serving the community.



Sponsor Recognition

Thank you to our sponsors and generous donors. If you would like to donate to the work of the Public Interest Center, please scan the QR code below.



Chicago-Kent College of Law

Public Interest Center