PILF Fellows 2009

Carson Barylak
Las Padres Forest Watch

Carson Barylak, 2L, spent last summer working at Los Padres ForestWatch, a non-profit organization in Santa Barbara, California. As a legal intern, she researched a variety of federal environmental laws and their application to public lands along California’s Central Coast. Carson had the opportunity to integrate her science background with her legal education by reviewing environmental impact statements and developing an Endangered Species Act critical habitat petition. She worked alongside the organization’s founder and executive director, who taught her a great deal about both the practice of environmental law and the operation of non-profit organizations. Carson hopes to remain in the non-profit sector and pursue a career in environmental law.

Orlie Benjamin
Federal Trade Commission, Chicago, IL

Orlie Benjamin interned at the Federal Trade Commission’s Midwest Region office in Chicago last summer. As an intern in their consumer protection division, she counteracted fraud directly. She interviewed victims of fraud and subsequently drafted declarations that were used as exhibits in Federal court. She also conducted research on prospective legal issues for the agency and had the opportunity to work on multiple memoranda for pending litigation. Overall, her experience at the agency provided Orlie with a challenging work environment and a further appreciation for public service.

David Boylan
Community Refugee and Immigration Services

David Boylan, 2L, interned this summer at Community Refugee and Immigration Services in Columbus, Ohio. CRIS is central Ohio’s largest provider of non-profit legal services to the immigrant and refugee communities in Columbus. As a legal intern, David assisted CRIS attorneys with case preparation, legal research, drafting of motions, interviewing clients, and naturalization and green card applications.

Sam Bryar
NGO- Timap for Justice, Sierra Leone

Sam Bryar traveled to Sierra Leone to work with the local NGO Timap for Justice, a partner of the Open Society Justice Initiative which aims to promote legal rights for community members through the use of advocacy, education and the training of local paralegals. Sam was sent to a small mining community in the south of the country where alluvial diamond mining had destroyed farmland of many community members. His work involved negotiations between the farmers and the mining company to repair the land and pay for damages. In addition, Sam oversaw over 60 mediations involving matters ranging from domestic abuse, to contract disputes, to corrupt government officials.

Catherine Coleman
Legal Aid Society of Columbus

Catie Coleman, 2L, served as a Tax Clerk at the Legal Aid Society of Columbus. During her clerkship, she represented clients to the IRS in a limited capacity, prepared legal documents and assisted low-income clients with their tax liabilities.

Brad Cromes
Legal Aid Society of Columbus

Bradley L. Cromes, 3L, served this summer as a law clerk with The Legal Aid Society of Columbus. Working directly for the Litigation Director, Bradley assisted the organization by providing research, conducting home visits to gather evidence, and drafting internal memoranda and reply briefs in cases covering the gamut of services provided by Legal Aid. In addition to his JD, Bradley is pursuing an M.A. (Public Policy & Management) from The Ohio State University John Glenn School of Public Affairs, and will graduate in December 2010. He hopes to pursue a career in public policy.

Beth Johnson
Alaska Public Defender Agency

Elizabeth Johnson, 3L, worked as a summer intern at the Alaska Public Defender Agency in Palmer, Alaska. Elizabeth was in the misdemeanor unit representing indigent criminal defendants in Alaska’s District Court in all stages of the criminal process. She spent the majority of her time on bail hearings and arraignments, but also had the opportunity to conduct a trial from start to finish.
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Lindsey Kortyka
DOJ Cleveland
Lindsey Kortyka, 2L, interned this summer for the United States Attorney's Office in Cleveland, OH. As a legal intern, Lindsey wrote an appellate brief, trial briefs, motions and memos for civil and criminal cases. She worked on cases pertaining to immigration, medical malpractice, and health care fraud.

Sarah Lee
Legal Aid Society of Columbus
Sarah Lee, 3L, assisted the Litigation department at the Legal Aid Society of Columbus (LASC) as a summer law clerk. LASC is a non-profit organization that provides quality legal services in civil matters for low-income clients and senior citizens. As the Litigation Law Clerk, Sarah assisted with drafting briefs, complaints, affidavits, responses, motions and correspondence; she also assisted in conducting client interviews, filing and verifying discovery requests, and factually investigating the nature of complaints.

Alison McCay
Equip for Equality, Chicago, IL
Alison McCay, 2L, interned this summer at Equip for Equality, a not-for-profit organization based in Chicago that administers the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system to safeguard the rights of people with disabilities in Illinois. The organization provides legal and advocacy services, education and training, policy initiatives, and also conducts abuse investigations to advance the human and civil rights of children and people with disabilities. As a legal intern, Alison worked in the Special Education Clinic, helping students and their families to secure special education services. Alison assisted staff attorneys with case preparation, legal research and memo writing, drafting of complaints, letter writing to school staff and administration, and review of student records. She also directly assisted clients through the Clinic Helpline, helped parents in drafting letters, and accompanied attorneys to IEP meetings with clients. After graduation, Alison plans to become a legal advocate for people with disabilities.

Anjali Nadig
San Francisco District Attorney
Anjali Nadig worked as a summer law clerk at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. Anjali participated in an extensive 12-week trial technique program that included both practical training as supervised by experienced assistant district attorneys, as well as exposure to real-world courtroom experience. Clerk tasks included performing complicated legal research and writing, conducting victim interviews, litigating the motions, helping to direct evidentiary hearings, assisting supervising attorneys in case preparation for trial, and helping to conduct jury trials.

Amanda Rose
U.S. Attorneys, Las Vegas, NV
Amanda Rose, 3L, served as a summer intern in the office of the United States Attorney for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas. As a clerk assigned to the Organized Crime Strike Force division, Amanda performed various legal work, including assisting with an ongoing trial by responding to defense motions and compiling jury instructions. She also appeared in federal court on behalf of the government during initial appearances and various hearings. Amanda hopes to pursue a career in criminal law.

Alexandra Wolfe
Legal Aid Society of Columbus
Alexandra Wolfe, 2L, interned at the Legal Aid Society of Columbus in the Child and Youth Law Program (CYLP). CYLP attorneys provide advice and assistance with special education and IEP meetings, Medicaid, and SSI. As a legal intern, Alexandra went on home visits, attended IEP meetings, assisted with legal research, called clients, wrote client letters, designed pamphlets to inform clients about Medicaid for Children, and assisted in a grant proposal.