**2019 PILA Fellowship Application Packet**

**What is P.I.L.A.?**

The Public Interest Law Association is a student organization that seeks to promote the goals of public interest law. Public interest law aims to protect the rights of the public at large (environmental law, consumer protection, etc.) and more particularly, of those members of society whose rights go unprotected because of economic disparity, lack of education or some form of prejudice (indigent defense, elder law, AIDS law, etc.). P.I.L.A. is associated with the national organization "Equal Justice Works."

**What is a P.I.L.A. Fellowship?**

P.I.L.A. fellowships are financial grants awarded to law students who work in a full-time ***unpaid*** public interest law positions during the summer. The amount and number of fellowships awarded each year depend upon the funds raised by the **Annual** [**P.I.L.A. Auction**](http://law.gsu.edu/pila/auctionstuff.htm). Alternates will be chosen in the event that a recipient becomes ineligible for the fellowship after being chosen. Although this is subject to change depending on the funds raised at the auction, a full time fellowship usually awards $3,000 to the selected recipients.

**What Qualifies as a Public Interest Law Job?**

The field is quite broad and covers almost any type of work that helps the public/community at large. Preferential consideration will be given to jobs that provide legal help to typically underserved segments of the population such as the poor, the elderly, etc. Government positions are eligible for PILA Fellowships. In the past, recipients have worked with the Georgia Innocence Project, clerked for Judges, the ACLU, Atlanta Legal Aid, Public Defenders’ offices, Environmental Law Groups, Homeless Law Clinics, etc. You may access information on past Fellows/Fellowship locations at: <http://gsu.orgsync.com/org/pila/pastfellows>. Students participating in public interest–related College of Law externships (including pre-approved or student-identified externships) for credit are also eligible for consideration.

**Who May Apply for a P.I.L.A. Fellowship?**

Any student currently enrolled at the Georgia State University College of Law may apply, whether or not s/he is a member of P.I.L.A. However, consideration will be given to P.I.L.A. involvement, particularly involvement in the P.I.L.A. Auction since it is the source of the funding sought.

**IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

(1) Although there is no rule that a student could not receive **2** **full-time** P.I.L.A. Fellowships over the course of their time at GSU (i.e. 1L summer AND 2L summer) as a general matter it will be an **extraordinary occurrence** for only the most **qualified** and **exceptional** candidate. We are not discouraging students from applying. However, given the extremely limited resources/availability of scholarships we would encourage **all** students and *especially* students who have already received a full fellowship during a previous summer to explore all possible alternative funding.

**Note:** This limitation is not applied to students who have received a part-time fellowship as a 1L. Students have traditionally been able to obtain two part-time fellowships – though, of course, past qualification does **not** necessarily qualify you for a future award.

(2) It has come to our attention that many people who do not receive fellowships as 1Ls become discouraged or let that disappointment stop their involvement with P.I.L.A. and/or hinder them from applying again as a 2L. We would **highly** encourage you to not let this be you! 2L students are frequently more qualified and well-rounded candidates *simply because they have an additional year of experience!*

**Who Makes the Decision?**

A Fellowship Committee comprised of four student members of P.I.L.A. and four faculty members makes the fellowship decisions. The award decisions are final. Alternates will be chosen in the event that a chosen recipient becomes ineligible for the funds. **The Fellowship Application Deadline is Friday, April 12, 2019. Recipients will be notified approximately by Friday April 26, 2019 (subject to change).**

**What is the commitment upon acceptance of a fellowhip?**

Attached to the application is an acceptance agreement, which states that if you are offered and accept a fellowship, you agree to volunteer with the PILA Auction. Full-time recipients will be required to volunteer 10 hours of time for the auction. Volunteering may include serving on a committee, volunteering for ticket sales, working the night of the auction etc. Although this requirement *may be waived* *for hardship considerations*, “being busy with classes” or “taking a full schedule” or “other student org commitments” will NOT be accepted as creating a *hardship*. We also may require fellowship recipients to speak to students at a lunchtime meeting to discuss and promote the fellowship.

**FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT ALEXANDRA DEMERCY AT** [president.pila@gmail.com](mailto:president.pila@gmail.com) **HOW TO APPLY**

**1. *Find an organization that you want to work for and is willing to hire you*.**

You may obtain a list of public service employers from the **Center for Professional Development & Career Strategies** and contact them directly, or you may research Public Interest jobs on your own at http://www.psjd.org/

**2. *Request that the person who will supervise you write a sponsor letter.***

**Sponsor Letter Requirements:**

~Letter must be written on the letterhead of the hiring organization

~Letter must confirm that the organization has offered you an **unpaid** legal job for the summer.

~Letter must explain the type of work you will be performing.

~Letter must indicate the number of hours you will be expected to work over the summer.

**3. *Complete the application below and submit per the instructions.***

~It is imperative that you answer each question as **fully as possible** to allow the Fellowship Committee the best opportunity to assess your application.

~Again, let us emphasize that we are evaluating students based on the *application*, not necessarily on verbal representations of the student’s qualifications. Although we may utilize verbal information to verify the contents of the application the *application itself* will be the tool used to make decisions.

**3. *Get two letters of recommendation.***

~Please provide two letters of recommendation from persons who have observed your professional, leadership, philanthropic, and/or other involvement in activities that you believe qualify you for this scholarship.

~At least one of these letters must be from a professor.

**4. *Submit your (1) Application, (2) Acceptance Agreement, (3) Sponsor letter (4) Resume & (5) Two Letters of Recommendation by 12:00pm,* Friday, April 12, 2019*.***

~PLEASE SCAN AND EMAIL ALL DOCUMENTS TO ALEXANDRA DEMERCY AT [PRESIDENT.PILA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:president.pila@gmail.com).

**5.** Recipients are selected by a committee consisting of students and faculty, and will be notified via email by **approximately** **Friday April 26, 2019.**

**p.i.l.a. 2019 fellowship Application**

**\*\*Application Deadline: 12:00pm, Friday, April 12, 2019\*\***

**Checklist:**

1. **Application (please type and attach extra sheets as necessary) you are highly encouraged to not simply rely on the few lines of space provided on the application.**
2. **Acceptance agreement**
3. **resume**
4. **two letters of recommendation**
5. **sponsor letter (per the requirements stated above)**

**Submission:**

1. Application should be typed
2. Submit Application in the to Alexandra DeMercy at president.pila@gmail.com

Questions or concerns should be sent to @ [president.pila@gmail.com](mailto:president.pila@gmail.com) .

**Name: Email:**

**Address: Home Phone:**

**Cell Phone:**

**I am applying for [check all that apply]:**

**Full-time Fellowship** [average of 30 hrs/wk for 10 weeks]

~minimum of 300 total hours worked for the summer/10 hour commitment to auction~

**NOTE:** Employer’s letter must confirm your summer status as being in accordance with your fellowship request

**I will be working for:**

**Organization Name:**

**Organization Address:**

**Organization Phone:**

**Application Information**

(you are NOT limited to the space provided ~ please use additional paper as necessary)

1.Are you a dues paying member of PILA?

2. Please tell us about any school-related public interest work that you have done since you began law school (i.e. externships, clinics, etc.):

3. Please tell us about other public interest work you have done of your own accord and note whether the position involved legal work:

4. Please tell us about your participation in PILA during your law school career, noting particularly your contributions to the annual PILA Auction. If you **have not** participated in PILA **OR** the auction please see question 3(a) below. If you have participated in both activities you may leave 3(a) blank or utilize the space to explain why your commitment may have been less than you would’ve liked.

3(a) **IMPORTANT:** If you did not participate in PILA or the annual auction please explain what precluded your participation. Although your non-participation does not preclude you from receiving a fellowship, it is important we understand the reason for your non-participation. The committee will consider extreme circumstances/hardships and will not penalize those students who were precluded from participation because of *hardship*. **[NOTE: “focusing on school;” “busy with classes;” or other similar responses will not be considered a valid *hardship* reason for non-participation]**

5. Would you be willing to sit as an alternate should a recipient become ineligible after being offered and accepting a Fellowship?

6. Please explain your interest in public interest law and why you would be a good candidate for the fellowship. (max 500 words)

7. What about this organization attracted you to work there this summer?

8. How do you expect your summer Public Interest Law experience to contribute to your legal training?

9. How many hours of volunteer/pro bono work have you completed this academic year?

10. What did your volunteer/pro bono work require you to do?

11. If you worked with any organizations to complete your volunteer/pro bono work please list it here:

**Hiring Organization Information**

10. What are the goals (or mission) of the organization you are working for this summer?

11. What segment(s) of the population does the organization serve and why do you wish to serve them?

**ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT**

On my honor, if I am offered and accept a PILA Fellowship, I agree:

* + 1. To participate in a Fellowship Recipients Panel during the 2019-2020 school year in order to promote the Fellowship and Public Interest Law to your fellow students if required, including writing a one to two paragraph written summary about my summer experience; AND
    2. To work for the stated public interest organization to the extent of the hours I indicated in my application; AND
    3. To dedicate volunteer hours to next year’s PILA Auction to the extent required of my award, AND
    4. That all of the information provided in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

If you understand and agree to these conditions, please sign your name below.  Note that by signing this contract, you are recognizing that it will be enforced.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_