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Public Interest Law Council Newsletter

University of Georgia School of Law

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PILC Spring Spotlight Award

PILC is proud to announce the recipient of our Spring Spotlight Award, **Nicole Babcock**. Nicole is a 3L at the University of Georgia School of Law and was chosen for the steadfast dedication she has shown to community service and a career in the public interest.

Prior to law school, Nicole, a Miami native and an Atlanta resident since ten years of age, volunteered with the American Red Cross and Oasis Catolico, an afterschool tutoring program mainly for Hispanic elementary school children in the Athens area. She applied to law school with an eye on continuing that vein of work, stating: "I knew that the law was probably the most effective way to advocate for individuals who don't have a voice in our community." After triple-majoring in Spanish, Italian, and journalism/advertising at UGA and working for a year, she chose to become a "Double Dawg" and come back to UGA for law school.

"IF NOT FOR THE EJF FELLOWSHIP, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE AND WORK IN DC FOR AN ENTIRE SUMMER."

- NICOLE BABCOCK

"I applied to law school because I knew that the law was probably the most effective way to advocate for individuals who don't have a voice in our community."

During law school, Nicole has thrown herself into many public-interest causes. She serves on the board for both the Equal Justice Foundation (EJF) and the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF), and she also received a full fellowship from EJF for her 2L summer with The Humane Society of the United States in Washington, DC. She spent her 1L summer at the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN) after participating in the China study abroad program.

With SALDF, she has helped organize the recent panel on animal law at the Working in the Public Interest (WIPI) Conference and many fundraisers, most recently for Ahimsa House, an organization based in Atlanta that combines Nicole's interests in animal welfare and domestic violence.

Nicole also has participated in the Family Violence Clinic and the Public Interest Practicum (PIP) for two semesters. **"I've had the opportunity to work directly with clients at the Soup Kitchen, the Worker's Center, Sparrow's Nest, and the Salvation Army Shelter,"** she says. In the midst of her busy schedule, Nicole found time to serve as mentor coordinator for the Oconee County Mentor Program and volunteer for three semesters personally mentoring an elementary school student in the program.

Nicole hopes to continue providing direct services to lower-income individuals after graduation, with a focus on the Hispanic population. She is also open to lobbying and policy work, but in her words, **"I want to learn more about direct service!"** PILC wishes her the best of luck in her career, after three years of serving the public-interest community at UGA Law wonderfully.

Nicole in Tiananmen Square



CONGRATULATIONS NICOLE!!!

2012 Equal Justice Foundation Fellows

David Richard Bartholomew
Andrea Danielle Baker
Jaren Blake Dunning
Sarah Ashraf Hassan
Jacob Michael Reif
Christopher H. van Rossem

Kathryn Alyse Clark
Joseph Cannon Crumbley
Erin M. Griffith
Joseph Wonjip Kim
Virginia Rose Priddy
James Robert Reeves

Alternative Spring Break

Spring 2012

Issue #2

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Georgia Law students volunteering at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS) over spring break

This year, the **Alternative Spring Break** group once again went to the beautiful city of New Orleans, Louisiana. The trip was planned and organized by Benjamin Cramer (2L) and Lauren Allen (2L). While planning the trip was not easy, it was worth it. With a total of 13 students in attendance the feedback was very positive. Students had the option of volunteering at either a criminal and civil public interest work site: the Orleans Public Defender office (OPD) or Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS). In addition to a wide variety of legal tasks, both groups of students were able to spend time at the courthouse and see “justice” at work.

Each student at OPD was assigned to work with an attorney who delegated what work they were to complete. Most of the OPD students spent a lot of time in the jails interviewing and prepping clients for court appearances. They completed research assignments, wrote briefs, and memos. There was a lot of experience gained in understanding the criminal justice system and the people who find themselves needing the service of public defenders.

The students volunteering at SLLS worked in a wide range of areas such as; housing, bankruptcy, domestic violence, and more. Some students were able to sit in court with their attorneys while others participated actively in hearing sessions between clients and government agencies. Students at this site also conducted research and wrote briefs and memos. While this was the first year at SLLS things seemed to run smoothly and the students learned a lot.

Thank you to all who supported us in the endeavor. As a result of the generosity of a number of alumni, students, and faculty, we were able to fundraise a majority of the housing and travel expenses of the trip! Our hope is that this foundation, along with your continued support will help this experiential learning opportunity be available for future UGA Law students.