

Thursday, October 16, 2008

Dear Friend,

The Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) at Columbia Law School awards grants to public interest law projects. Enclosed please find an application for the 2009-2010 Community Grants Program. We encourage you to submit a proposal for consideration.

PILF is an independent, not-for-profit corporation founded by members of the Columbia Law School community to support legal work in the public interest. Since its inception in 1980, PILF has raised and awarded over \$500,000 in grants to individuals and organizations. This year, we plan to award approximately \$50,000 in grants. Historically, grants have ranged from \$1,000-\$15,000. We are particularly interested in both funding innovative projects that would not otherwise be pursued without a grant and in providing gap year funding for established projects.

PILF has awarded grants to a wide variety of projects, including:

- Hosting legal clinics concerning benefits available to elderly veterans
- Publication of *Know Your Rights* manuals for unaccompanied adolescent immigrants
- Provision of up-to-date legal information for parents navigating the special education process
- Assisting low-wage workers in enforcing their employment-related rights
- Reduction of police misconduct through civilian monitoring and advocacy
- Online outreach and legal information for immigrants
- Legal advocacy for retrials for indigent convicted criminal defendants

Applications must be received by Monday, January 12, 2009. Repeat applications are welcome. PILF will make its grant decisions by April 2009.

If you know of others who may wish to apply, please give them copies of these materials or have them contact PILF directly. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Haber (ash2130@columbia.edu, (914) 629-6912), Jacob Croke (jmc2198@columbia.edu), or Maria Nonaka (men2114@columbia.edu). You can also refer to our website, <http://www.columbiaPILF.org>, for more information on the program and a list of past recipients. We look forward to receiving your applications.

Sincerely,

Andrew Haber
Vice President of Community Grants
Public Interest Law Foundation
Columbia Law School