

February 25, 2011

Dear Students,

The University of Dayton School of Law is pleased to announce this year's competition for the Dayton Law Public Interest Awards. These awards, which will come in the form of stipends ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000, will help support the summer internships of law students working in public interest law.

If you are set to complete your second, third, fourth, or fifth semester in May 2011 and are not scheduled to graduate, you are invited to apply for funding for the summer of 2011. The application procedures are attached. We provide as many stipends each summer as our funding permits.

Service to community is at the heart of our Marianist Charism, and we wish to recognize, celebrate, and assist those students seeking to make legal services available to the poor and marginalized members of society. Our students should be proud of their many contributions to the public good. Dayton is a better, stronger community because you are a part of it.

The Public Interest Award was created through the joint efforts of the faculty, staff, and students of Dayton Law. We wish to extend special thanks to the Volunteer Student Law Project for its efforts to support the annual Alumni Weekend Auction, which is an important fundraising source for this program.

We hope and believe this program will continue to grow in years to come.

Sincerely,

The Catholic and Marianist Pro Bono Committee

Sister Mary Louise Foley
Professor Denise Platfoot Lacey
Professor Richard Sapphire
Professor Dale Searcy
Dean Lori Shaw, Chair
Professor Victoria VanZandt

Dayton Law Public Interest Award Application Procedures

1. **Applications will be accepted by the Office of Student Affairs from March 4, 2011 to May 5, 2011.** If possible, please submit your application in electronic form to Mary Boston at lawannouncements@notes.udayton.edu.
2. Applicants must plan to and be academically eligible to enroll in Dayton Law classes the fall semester immediately following their summer placement.
3. To be considered for awards, applicants must have secured **an offer** to: (1) perform legal work for a federal, state, or local government agency; or (2) provide legal services (criminal or civil) or services that utilize lawyering skills through a not-for-profit community organization. The work must either be unpaid or draw only a small stipend. All work involving the provision of legal services must be supervised by a licensed attorney.

The work should be focused upon improving access to justice for the poor and marginalized. While it is not possible to provide an exhaustive list of the types of public service and pro bono work that would qualify a student for consideration for a Public Interest Award, the following may be suggestive: Legal Aid and Public Defender offices; youth and family service organizations; mediation centers; and various non-profit organizations (e.g., civil rights-civil liberties groups; religious organizations; environmental groups).

4. Factors involved in awarding Public Interest Stipends include, but are not limited to, the extent and history of the applicant's record of community service, the quality of the personal statement articulating the applicant's future commitment and how the placement dovetails with his/her public interest career goals. **The nature of the placement and its potential benefit to the poor and marginalized will be given significant weight.**
5. Proposed placements must involve a minimum of 200 total hours of work over the course of the summer.
6. Applicants must submit: a resume; a **Public Interest Award Application Form** (see attached); an **Employer Confirmation Letter** (see attached sample); **two letters of recommendation**; and a **brief personal statement of no more than 1200 words**, describing the applicant's previous community service experiences, their current desire to pursue a public interest career in the law, the work of the placement organization, the applicant's likely duties at the placement, how the proposed placement advances the applicant's career goal, and how the proposed placement would serve the interest of a disenfranchised population.
7. Awards will be made on a rolling basis by the Catholic and Marianist/Pro Bono Committee, which will have sole discretion in making the awards. The Committee will meet on March 14th and April 11th. Students who have applied for an Award will be notified of the Committee's decision within one week of the meeting. Students whose applications have been denied at the March meeting may reapply. **If funds are still available**, the Committee will meet for a final time on May 9, and again, students whose

applications were previously denied may reapply. **There is no guarantee that funds will be available after the April 11th awards. Thus, students are strongly advised to apply as early in the process as possible and to present their best possible case for an Award in their initial application.**

8. Upon the completion of their internship, award recipients will be required to submit an accounting of their hours, signed by themselves and their supervisor, to Office of Student Affairs.
9. Award winners will receive the first half of their installment on or before May 25, 2011, and the second half following completion of their required hours and submission of the signed accounting described in paragraph 8.

Application Form

I. **Personal Information**

Name _____

Local Address _____

Preferred Phone Number _____

Preferred Email Address _____

Are you in good academic standing (*i.e.*, not on probation)? _____

II. **Proposed Placement Information**

Name of Organization _____

Address of Organization _____

Placement Address (if different from above) _____

Placement Phone Number _____

Name of Supervising Attorney _____

Supervising Attorney's Phone Number _____

Supervising Attorney's Email Address _____

Sample Employer Confirmation Letter

Dayton Law Public Interest Award
c/o Office of Student Services
University of Dayton School of Law
300 College Park
Dayton, Ohio 45469-2772

[Date]

Dear Catholic and Marianist/Pro Bono Committee:

Please be advised that (name of organization) _____ has offered
(name of applicant) _____ a position for the
summer of 2011. The mission of this organization is to _____

_____.

The

applicant's duties will include: _____

_____.

The employment will last for _____ weeks for a total of approximately

_____ hours. The applicant will receive \$_____ or no compensation

(circle if applicable) for his/her work. Any legal services provided will be directly supervised by
a licenses attorney.

Sincerely,

(Supervisor's signature) _____

(Print) _____

(Title) _____