Frequently Asked Questions

What is PIFP?

Established in 1998, the Walter Lucas Public Interest Fellowship Program (PIFP) of Villanova University School of Law (VLS) is a student-run organization that provides financial support to VLS students who commit their summers to public interest legal work. In turn, PIFP Fellows work in otherwise unpaid positions with various public interest organizations throughout the region and the world to advocate for the common good and to deliver free legal services to underserved and underrepresented populations.

PIFP also provides financial support through its Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to recent VLS graduates pursuing careers in public interest law. In 2009, PIFP was named in memory of Walter Lucas ’88 VLS, who dedicated his legal career to helping others and fighting employment discrimination.

What is public interest law?

Public interest law describes the practice of law aimed at serving the public good. Public interest lawyers are generally known as those who pursue social justice and represent the interests of historically underserved and underrepresented populations. PIFP Fellows volunteer with non-profit organizations or government agencies that provide legal, policy, or advocacy services to the public at large or to impoverished or marginalized populations.

Where do PIFP Fellows work?


How do PIFP Supporters make an impact?

Because of the generous donations of countless individuals, law firms and businesses, over 190 law students have received summer fellowships (each valued at $4,500). Each fellowship provides the financial support the student needs in order to volunteer at a public interest organization. PIFP has raised over $878,000 since its inception.

In addition, PIFP provides $12,000 to fund its Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). Each year, LRAP provides a $12,000 award to a recent graduate who is committed to working in public interest law.

How can you help?

Donate to PIFP and attend PIFP events! Read the back side of this sheet to learn how you can easily make a monetary donation or an in-kind donation in support of PIFP’s annual auction, our largest fundraising event; and visit our website www.law.villanova.edu/pifp to learn more about PIFP and our upcoming events.
Monetary Donations

Checks should be made payable to “Villanova University” with “PIFP” on the memo line. Please send to PIFP at the address listed below:

Walter Lucas Public Interest Fellowship Program
Villanova University School of Law
299 North Spring Mill Road
Villanova, PA 19085

Credit card donations also are accepted through VLS’s website: www.law.villanova.edu/makeagift. Simply click on the “Make a Gift” icon on the right hand side of the page, then click on “School of Law – Other Designation.” When prompted, be sure to select “Walter A. Lucas ’88 Public Interest Fellowship Program” from the drop-down designation menu.

In-kind Donations/Auction Items

Please complete and return the enclosed form by email to pifp@law.villanova.edu or by mail to:

Walter Lucas Public Interest Fellowship Program
Villanova University School of Law
299 North Spring Mill Road
Villanova, PA 19085

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes! After receiving your donation, PIFP will send a confirmation letter thanking you for your contribution. The letter also will detail your contribution and provide Villanova University’s federal EIN number for your tax records. Additionally, the official registration and financial information of Villanova University may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.

Would you like more information?

Visit PIFP’s website at www.law.villanova.edu/pifp, email us: pifp@law.villanova.edu, or leave us a voice mail message: 610-519-6163. We will be sure to respond promptly.