

Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law

Walter A. Lucas Public Interest Fellowship Program



The Walter A. Lucas Public Interest Fellowship Program (PIFP) is a student-run organization that provides summer fellowships to Villanova Law students working in public interest legal positions throughout the country.

Who We Are

The 2021-2022 Executive Board



Established in 1998, the Walter A. 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 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. PIFP's LRAP was recently, in 2019, renamed the Detta and Joseph Tate Loan Repayment Assistance Program, in honor of our generous donors who now fund the program. In 2009, PIFP was named in memory of Walter Lucas '88 VLS, who dedicated his legal career to helping others and fighting employment discrimination.

Frequently Asked Questions

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 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 marginalized populations.



MEET THE 2023 FELLOWS



Casey Brogan

PHILADELPHIA LEGAL
ASSISTANCE, CONSUMER
HOUSING UNIT

Philadelphia, PA

"I loved working with a unit of attorneys and paralegals who were such thoughtful, empathetic and dedicated advocates for our clients facing the threat of losing their homes."

PIFP Fellows have volunteered with organizations including, but not limited to: Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, Child Welfare League of America, Community Legal Services, Conservation Law Foundation, Defender Association of Philadelphia, Disability Law Project, Education Law Center, Homeless Advocacy Project, International Justice Mission in Ghana, International Criminal Court at The Hague, National Center for Victims of Crime, Pennsylvania Health Law Project, Regional Housing Services, U.S. Department of Justice, and

How do PIFP Supporters make an impact?

Because of the generous donations of countless individuals, law firms, and businesses, 260 law students have received summer fellowships (now valued at \$6,000). These fellowships provide financial support to students volunteering at public interest organizations that they may not have otherwise. PIFP has raised over one million dollars since its inception. In addition, each year, PIFP's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) provides a few recent Villanova Law graduates in the public interest field with an award, amounting up to \$12,000, to assist with the repayment of their law school student loans. This program is now funded by our generous donors, Joseph and Detta Tate.



How can you help?

27th Annual Auction

In order to support as many students as possible, we need your help! We are excited to return in person this year for our on **March 23, 2024!** There will be a live and silent auction, community performances to celebrate PIFP and our public interest community, information on the incredible work of our PIFP fellows, food, drinks, and, of course, recognition of critical support from donors like you! In the wake of COVID-19, our students need your help now more than ever. Without your generosity, our students would be unable to pursue their passion for public interest and serve society in these roles. So any contribution, be it an in-kind donation to be auctioned off or a monetary donation is greatly appreciated! Information about the benefits of a partnership with PIFP can be found on the next page.

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

Credit Card Donations

Credit card donations are also accepted through VLS’s website:

www.law.villanova.edu/makeagift

Simply click on "Public Interest Fellowship Program" and enter your donation amount.

In-kind Donations/Auction Items

Please complete and return the **enclosed form** by email to pifp@law.villanova.edu or by mail to the same address listed above under Monetary Donations.

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes! After receiving your donation, PIFP will send a confirmation letter that 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 www.law.villanova.edu/pifp or email us at pifp@law.villanova.edu.

Partnering with You

With your support, we can continue to provide critical legal services and support organizations which, generally, cannot afford to pay summer positions. By donating to PIFP, either in-kind or monetarily, you will receive the following benefits from us:

Benefits

Levels	Bronze \$100+	Silver \$1,000+	Gold \$2,000+	Wildcat \$3,000+	Fellowship Sponsor \$6,000+
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- Recognition on our Website
- Recognition at Auction
- Social Media Recognition



- Logo in Auction Pamphlet
- Personalized Social Media Post



- Half Page Advertisement in Auction Pamphlet
- Opportunity to set up a booth at the Auction



- Full Page Advertisement in Auction Pamphlet
- Opportunity to Present at Event



- "Sponsored by..." on all Auction Marketing
- Fellowship Name





Donation Form

27th Annual Auction - March 23, 2024



Donor Name/Name of Organization: _____

Contact Name (if different than donor): _____

Mailing Address:

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Please Consider Sponsoring a Fellow for a:

- Day: \$100 Month: \$2,000
- Week: \$500 Summer: \$5,000

-OR-

Description of Donated Item for Auction (please be as detailed as possible):

Estimated Fair Market Value: _____

Please include this form with all donations.

If you would prefer to have a volunteer pick up your donation, please contact us with your preferred times at ***pifp@law.villanova.edu***.

If you would like to mail your donation, our mailing address is:

Walter Lucas Public Interest Fellowship Program
Attn: Alannah King/Michaela Kelly
299 N. Spring Mill Rd.
Villanova, PA 19085

Please see the Partnering with You page for details regarding benefits that accompany your donation. Any advertisements or logos can be emailed to ***pifp@law.villanova.edu***

Thank you for your generous support!