Public Interest Week

Time: 12:00am February 23 to 12:00am February 28

Public Interest Week will celebrate the power of public interest and culminate in our 25th Anniversary Alumni Gala. Check back regularly for more events and details!

The Toll Public Interest Center is marking its 25th anniversary with our annual week-long celebration of public interest. Join us as we commemorate the legacy of service at Penn Law and look forward to the next 25 years. Notable events will include:

- Hosting Reed Brody, Counsel and Spokesperson for Human Rights Watch, as our Honorary Fellow in Residence from 2/23 to 2/24. All are invited to the Honorary Fellow’s Presentation and Dinner on 2/24, 6-8:00 PM in the Levy Conference Center. RSVP HERE.
- Celebrating the achievements of our students and alumni at our Annual Student & Alumni Dinner on Saturday, 2/28/15. INFO HERE.

Schedule for the Week:

Monday 2/23:

**TO LIGHT A CANDLE SCREENING & PANEL | RSVP HERE**

6:30-8:30 PM | Location: Fifts Auditorium

Baha’is are systematically imprisoned, tortured and killed by the Iranian government. The Islamic regime bans Baha’is from studying or teaching in Iranian universities. But the Baha’is do teach, and they do study. Since 1987 the Baha’is started BIHE, an underground university with hundreds of students in Iran, and dozens of teachers in Iran and around the world (including from major universities like Harvard, MIT, etc.). Through powerful interviews, exclusive secret footage shot by citizen journalists, rare archival material and dramatic letters written by a Baha’i prisoners currently in jail in Iran. To Light a Candle shows how a small minority has defied the brutal systematic religious persecution through non-violent resistance and educating their youth.

Event Co-Sponsors:
LE.A.R.N. (Leaders in Education Advocacy & Reform Network)
Penn Law Civil Rights Law Project
Tuesday 2/24:

THE COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION | RSVP HERE
12 - 1:30 PM, lunch provided to those who RSVP | Location: Gittis 2

This event will provide a compelling panel discussion on the collateral consequences of sex offender registration, with a special focus on Pennsylvania’s SORNA statute. The guest speakers include Marsha Levick from the Juvenile Law Center, Abby Horn from the Defender Association of Philadelphia, and Aaron Marcus from the Defender Association of Philadelphia.


HONORARY FELLOW PRESENTATION AND DINNER, “THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE AS AN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHT.” | RSVP HERE
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, dinner served | Location: Levy Conference Center.

Honorary Fellow-in-Residence Reed Brody will present his lecture, “The Quest For Justice, an International Litigator’s Perspective From Augusto Pinochet to Hissène Habré…to George Bush?”

This program has been approved for 1.0 substantive law credit hours for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring $30.00 ($15.00 public interest attorneys) cash or check made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Wednesday 2/25:

FORKS OVER KNIVES SCREENING | RSVP HERE
12:13:30 PM, vegan lunch provided to those who RSVP | Location: Gittis 2

ALP is hosting a screening of Forks Over Knives. Forks Over Knives examines the profound claim that most, if not all, of the degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled, or even reversed, by rejecting animal-based and processed foods. The major storyline in the film traces the personal journeys of a pair of pioneering yet under-appreciated researchers, Dr. T. Colin Campbell and Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn.

Sponsors: Animal Law Project, Environmental Law Project, Penn Vegan Society

THE PRICE OF SEX SCREENING | RSVP HERE
12:1-30 PM, lunch provided to those who RSVP | Location: Tanenbaum 145

The Price of Sex is a feature-length documentary about young Eastern European women who’ve been drawn into a netherworld of sex trafficking and abuse, intimate, harrowing and revealing. It is a story told by the young women who were supposed to be silenced by shame, fear and violence. Photojournalist Mimi Chakarova, who grew up in Bulgaria, takes us on a personal investigative journey, exposing the shadowy world of sex trafficking from Eastern Europe to the Middle East and Western Europe. Filming undercover and gaining extraordinary access, Chakarova illuminates how even though some women escape to tell their stories, sex trafficking thrives.

Sponsors: IHRA

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM PANEL | RSVP HERE
4:30 - 6:30 PM, light reception | Location: Gittis 214

Five years after the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United, predictions of enormous increases in election spending have been proven true. Unfortunately, most of the public is unaware of how the decision shut the door on many tradition campaign finance solutions, while opening windows to novel tactics for reformers. Our distinguished panelists will expose the legal implications of the Court’s ever narrower conception of corruption, from Buckley to McCutcheon, and highlight possible reforms.

Panelists:
Keesha Gaskins, Former Senior Counsel, Brennan Center’s Democracy Program
Adam Lioz, Counsel and Senior Advisor, Demos
Paul S. Ryan, Senior Counsel, Campaign Legal Center

Sponsors: ACS and Campaign Finance Reform Project

Thursday 2/26:

SEEKING EDUCATION POLICY CHANGE THROUGH LEGAL EFFORTS | RSVP HERE
12 – 1:30 PM, lunch provided to those who RSVP  | Location: Gittis 214

A student-moderated panel with attorneys from both of LEARN’s partner organizations, the Education Law Center, and the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia. Attorneys will discuss the work they do in conjunction with both of LEARN’s pro bono projects, the Student Disciplinary Advocacy Service (SDAS), and the special education research done by PILCOP—specifically how these programs allow them to affect policy change in the realms of student discipline, education disability rights, and other matters. The panel will also feature students who work on the pro bono projects.

Sponsors: LEARN, Education Law Center, Temple SDAS, PILCOP

EQUAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION AUCTION  |  INFO & RSVP HERE
5:30 – 11:00 PM  |  Location: Penn Law School

Friday 2/27:

PUBLIC INTEREST CAREER 1-ON-1S  |  SIGN UP HERE

Interested in working in the public sector but don’t know where to start? Or are you searching for more networking opportunities with alums? Don’t miss a unique opportunity to meet individually with some of our best and brightest alums by signing up for a Career 1-on-1 on February 27! Signups are open in Symplicity (under Events-Workshops, or by searching keyword one-on-ones) until February 20. Be sure to see the list of participating alums, which includes public defenders, legal aid lawyers, and government attorneys at the DOJ, HUD, and the US Attorney’s Office in Philadelphia.

HOW TO THRIVE AS A PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYER  |  RSVP HERE
12:1-30 PM, lunch provided to those who RSVP  |  Location: Gittis 213

Please join the Toll Public Interest Center for an intimate question-and-answer session with some of Penn Law’s best and brightest public interest alums. This session offers an open forum for students considering a career in public interest and public service. Panelists will address the rewards and challenges of a public interest career, their perspectives regarding the responsibilities and challenges they have faced, and any other questions you may have!

CAREER CONVERSATIONS
3:30-4:30 PM
Criminal Defense  |  Location: Silverman 270
Government/Policy  |  Location: M28

Join us for informal group conversations over coffee and sweets with accomplished alums who want to share their career trajectories with you and answer your questions! We’ll be hosting two conversations: one for students interested in criminal defense work in S270 (RSVP here) and one for students interested in government/policy work in M28 (RSVP here).

LEADING SOCIAL CHANGE  |  RSVP HERE
5-6:30 PM  |  Location: S240A/Kabiacoff

What does it take to run a non-profit? Hear from Penn Law Alumni about the rewards and challenges of legal management in the public sector.

Panelists:

Catherine C. Carr, Executive Director of Community Legal Services, Inc.
Stefanie Fleischer Seldin, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together Philadelphia
Laval Miller-Wilson, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Joanna Visser Adjoian, Co-Executive Director, Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project

This panel has been approved for 1.5 hours substantive law credit for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment in the amount of $30.00 ($15.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys) cash or check made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Saturday 2/28:

2015 STUDENT & ALUMNI DINNER. A 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA EVENT  |  INFO
5:30 – 11:00 PM  |  Location: Silverman Hall

Please look for details on these events via email, announcements, and TPIC Tumblr. Feel free to contact all-tpic@law.upenn.edu with any questions.

Penn Law’s annual Public Interest Week takes place each spring and presents a full week of events showcasing public interest practitioners, alumni, and the Honorary Fellow-in-Residence.