2009 FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Interest Law Fellows Program
Seeks Candidates from China and Nepal

The Public Interest Law Institute (PILI) is pleased to invite applications for its Public Interest Law Fellows Program for 2009–2010. PILI will select lawyers from China and Nepal for ten months of study and practical experience in New York and Budapest, Hungary. The program targets future leaders in various fields of public interest advocacy. Criteria for selection include:

- Applicants must have a minimum of two years of relevant work experience with the nominating organization;
- Potential to contribute to the development of public interest law advocacy in his or her country;
- Track record of the nominating organization in promoting public interest advocacy; and
- The quality of the Fellowship Project proposal and its potential for promoting public interest law and human rights.

PILI Fellows will join other public interest lawyers from around the world. They will reside a total of eight months in the U.S., consisting of one semester of study at Columbia University and additional public interest advocacy training. The Fellows also participate in a three-month internship in a New York area public interest law organization. Following their experience in New York, Fellows participate in a two-month study visit, based in Europe out of PILI’s Budapest office. Fellows return to their home countries after the Fellowship, with the aim to implement the project developed during the Fellowship.

PILI will cover the cost of a round-trip coach airfare to the U.S. and Budapest, housing in New York and Budapest, a monthly stipend, a textbook allowance and accident insurance. Selected candidates for the fellowship are required to sign an agreement to the terms of the fellowship, stating that they will complete it in full.

Application Requirements:

Applicants must submit the following documents:

- A completed program application form.
- A curriculum vitae or resume.
- A nominating letter from the organization/institution where they are employed, supporting their application to the program and indicating how the Fellowship would be a benefit to the organization/institution.
• At least one recommendation from an individual outside the nominating organization/institution.
• A description of a project that the applicant would like to work on during the first semester of the program, ideally with practical significance to their work upon return home.
• A copy of the applicant’s law school transcript.
• A copy of the applicant’s bar association membership, if available.
• Information on the nominating organization/institution and additional recommendations are also encouraged, although not required.

Submission via e-mail of application materials is strongly encouraged, though materials may also be submitted via regular mail. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.** If an application is submitted without one of the required components, it will be disqualified, unless the applicant can justify why he/she cannot obtain the required information.

The **DEADLINE** for receiving applications at PILI is **March 31, 2009**. For more information and application forms, please contact Peter Rowland, Program Manager, by e-mail: pilifellowship@pili.org. Printed applications can be sent via mail to the address on the application.

*Please note, PILI cannot provide any financial or logistical assistance for accompanying family members, including securing suitable family housing. Moreover, Columbia University requires evidence of financial support for accompanying family members prior to issuing official invitations to them. In the 2007/2008 academic year, this amount was equal to $700 a month for an accompanying spouse and $350 a month for each dependent child. Providing proof of the requisite financial support for accompanying family members will be the responsibility of the applicant.*
Public Interest Law Fellowship Program Description

The Public Interest Law Institute (PILI) works hand-in-hand with lawyers and public interest activists across the globe to build rights-respecting societies based on the rule of law. PILI’s mission is to advance human rights around the world by stimulating public interest advocacy and developing the institutions necessary to sustain it. Since its founding ten years ago, PILI has provided 67+ capacity-building fellowships to public interest lawyers from 30 countries. The Fellowship provides leading public interest lawyers from around the world with the experience and perspective to advance their work and the development of public interest law in their own countries.

Fellows arrive in New York City in early to mid-August in order to participate in A Comparative Introduction to American Law, an intensive course at Columbia Law School that starts prior to other classes and provides an academic orientation for foreign lawyers. In the first semester of the program, Fellows participate in a non-degree program in which they audit 3 to 5 courses. All Fellows are required to participate in a workshop taught by Edwin Rekosh, PILI’s Executive Director, titled Human Rights, Law and Development. The workshop includes select Columbia law students and provides a practically-oriented an interdisciplinary and comparative overview of law reform issues confronting the legal systems of the countries represented by the Fellows, with an emphasis on democracy-building, civil society development and the promotion and protection of human rights.

During the semester, each Fellow will be placed in a group with students in the workshop to develop a project related to the needs and priorities of the applicant’s nominating organization, but may change over the course of the semester based on the input of other students in the workshop. The result of the class will be a detailed project plan that can be further modified after the fall semester to fit the particular needs of the Fellows’ organizations.

Fellows also have the opportunity to participate in public lectures, workshops and conferences at Columbia and in New York, and are introduced to public interest law advocacy in the United States through a series of visits to New York-based public interest law organizations throughout the fall.

From January through March, the Fellows will participate in a three-month internship at a human rights, legal services, or other public interest law organization in New York. To the extent possible, PILI attempts to match Fellows with internships related to the area of human rights and public interest law that interests the Fellows.

Following their experience in New York, Fellows participate in a two-month study visit in April and May based at PILI’s European office in Budapest, Hungary, to gain comparative experience on public interest law. This study-visit is custom tailored to each Fellow’s goals and interests and includes individual research and site visits to a variety of institutions in Hungary, and trips to other European countries.