



2009-2010 BOARD APPLICATION

Name: Kristin Zimmer

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Undergraduate Degree & Major: Political Science and International Studies

Law Area of Interest: Criminal Defense and Child Advocacy

Are you a current PILAR member?: Yes No

I would like to be considered for election to the following position(s):

- President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer
 3L Representative 2L Representative 1L Representative

Please contain your total answers to all questions to the space on this page plus one additional page.

1. Do you have any leadership experience? If yes, please explain.

During my undergraduate years, I was a Co-Founder and Co-President of the Cross Country Club at my college, responsible for recruitment and planning practices. I also served on the Student Government Finance Committee, conducting an annual review of the budgets for all campus clubs and special requests for funds that came up throughout the year. After graduation, I served as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) at the San Diego District Attorney's Office. My primary project was the Senate Bill 618 Prisoner Reentry Program, a collaboration between the State, the Sheriff's Department, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office, Parole, Probation and UC San Diego to provide a comprehensive reentry program beginning at sentencing and continuing until 18 months post-release. I coordinated multiple committees to accomplish action items and reach agreed upon points of progress. At Christmas, I worked with Prison Fellowship to begin a gift drive and event for the children of program participants and their caregivers. In soliciting donations from the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the community, I was able to add a personal connection and partnership to relationships which are often highly competitive. Additionally, I developed a referral process for participant's children to the Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Program and the YMCA Y-Friendz mentoring program.

I was also responsible for coordinating San Diego's Reentry Roundtable Community meeting. This was a monthly gathering of over forty faith leaders, government officials, public safety representatives and non-profit organizations to discuss the specific needs and barriers facing individuals and their families during and after incarceration.



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What are your strengths and weaknesses?

I consider it a great strength that I have lived and worked in several environments and am always seeking a new perspective and group of people from which to learn. I have lived in rural upstate New York, Southern California and spent a semester abroad in Brussels, Belgium and an additional month in the Normandy region of France. I have worked at summer camps, a political office, community organizations, medical centers and correctional facilities. In each of these environments, I worked with different populations, ranging from terminally ill transplant patients to political dignitaries to felony offenders.

I believe my greatest weakness is that often when I am developing a new project or working towards a goal, I find it challenging to incorporate all of the details. When I see a need, I am enthusiastic about filling that gap but I rely on others to assist me with accounting for all of the elements needed to make the project successful

2. What do you hope to personally bring to this student organization?

I hope to bring my passion and commitment to public interest work to not only PILAR, but the 1L student body. I received a scholarship for my undergraduate education based on my community work in high school. I graduated with over 800 hours of community service which came primarily from two missions trips and three years working with the Rochester Center for Youth. Upon graduation, I moved to San Diego, California where I worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer for two years before coming to law school. I believe that no matter how busy our lives get as law students or future lawyers we should never consider ourselves so busy that we cannot offer our assistance to another. By bringing this into our legal education, it is more likely to become a part of our legal careers.

3. What do you hope to help PILAR accomplish in the 2008-2009 school year?

I would like to see PILAR create legal experience and service opportunities to assist veterans. Many of our classmates have served our country and we live in a city densely populated with veterans returning from extended tours overseas.

I feel strongly that a comprehensive approach to law is critical in order to understand our future clients and those we work with along the way. I think it would be beneficial to bring in experts who can speak on problems such as addiction and psychological barriers that many individuals in our society must face daily.

Finally, I would use at least part of our summer or interim breaks to offer a service trip to those interested. We all came to law school with different skills and can bring these together with our legal education to create an inspirational service learning opportunity.

4. Is there anything else you would like PILAR members to know in connection with your running for a Board position? I am eager to promote the importance of public interest work to the IL class and increase student commitment and enthusiasm based on issues they view as important.