

2005

## Public Interest Student Profiles

Gabe Conroe

Christina Hynes Mesco

Beth Hofmeister

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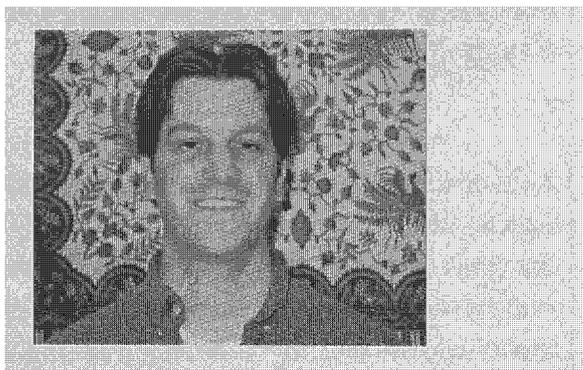
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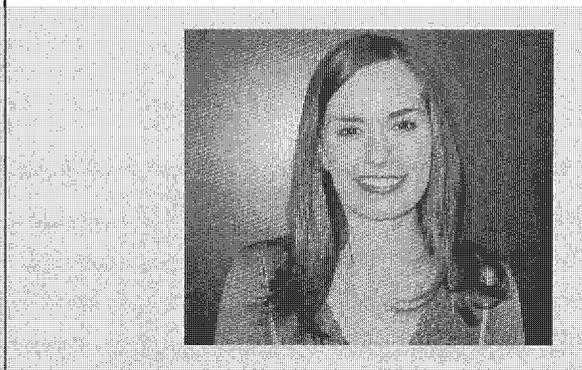
Gabe Conroe, , Christina H. Mesco, & Beth Hofmeister, *Public Interest Student Profiles*, 10 Pub. Interest L. Rptr. 12 (2005).  
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**Public Interest Student Profile:**

**Gabe Conroe**  
**Third Year Law Student**  
**Chicago-Kent College of Law**

For the past two summers, I have worked as an intern at the Lake County Public Defender's Office. The office provides free counsel for indigent people charged with major traffic, misdemeanor and felony offenses. My work began mostly as an observer, but eventually I took on more responsibility, including conducting jury trials. I chose to work in the public sector because it allowed me to be in the courtroom every day and to interact consistently with clients, adversaries and judges. I am also drawn to this area because I have found that the criminal justice system often treats the poor inequitably or fails them completely. Through my work at the Public Defender's Office, I observed that many of the clients' legal troubles often coincide with major drug and/or mental health problems. I believe that the knowledge of having an advocate on their side will often do more for a client than most punishments.

**Public Interest Student Profile:**

**Christina Hynes Mesco**  
**Second Year Law Student**  
**Loyola University Chicago**

This summer I worked for the Hospital Accountability Project ("HAP"), an organization that represents patients sued for medical debt free of charge and seeks change in the non-profit health care industry. HAP assists patients in applying for charity programs that are offered, but not publicized by hospitals. As a result of HAP's assistance, many of the lawsuits against these patients are dismissed. Among many other duties, I conducted client interviews, drafted motions, and corresponded with attorneys and health care providers. I chose to work for HAP because I wanted to empower those less fortunate and use my law degree to provide legal representation for those who cannot afford it. This experience inspired me to pursue work in the public sector upon graduation because I believe there is still much work to be done to increase access to health care and to legal aid services in general.

### **Public Interest Law Society Fellowships**

Through the fundraising efforts of Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Public Interest Law Society ("PILS"), Loyola is able to offer grants to approximately eight students per year who plan to work in the public sector over the Summer. For more information visit: [www.luc.edu/law/activities/opportunities/public-interest-grants.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/law/activities/opportunities/public-interest-grants.shtml).

## NEWS

### Public Interest Student Profile:



**Beth Hofmeister**  
**Third Year Law Student**  
**Loyola University Chicago**

This past summer I worked as a law clerk in the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender, Juvenile Division. The mission of the Public Defender is to protect the fundamental rights, liberties and dignity of each person whose case has been entrusted to the office. Over the summer I was able to represent youth at all stages of the juvenile proceedings with my 711 license and under the supervision of an attorney. Before law school, I worked extensively in the public sector and chose to attend Loyola for its focus on child and family advocacy, in addition to its dedication to public service. My summer at the Public Defender's office only reinforced my commitment to use my legal education and work experience as a social justice advocate in the criminal and juvenile justice fields.

### Get Involved! Loyola Chicago Students to Aid Katrina Victims Over Spring Break

A group of committed students from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law will spend their Spring Break serving the survivors of Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast. During this week students will provide legal services for hurricane victims in the New Orleans area by working with local legal aid organizations. Those affected by Hurricane Katrina face an overwhelming number of legal questions, with little to no legal representation. Legal aid organizations hosting volunteers address a variety of issues for hurricane victims including government benefits, eviction proceedings, unemployment compensation, criminal justice, civil rights and other legal obstacles unique to the hurricane's aftermath. Student volunteers will work within legal aid organizations, performing a variety of tasks, including client interviews, legal research, filling out paper work with clients, writing memos and other miscellaneous legal support functions. Loyola students will also have the opportunity to participate in the clean-up and rebuilding efforts which carry on throughout the Gulf Coast region.

Loyola law students will hold a number of fundraising events will take place before Spring Break to keep the cost per student to a minimum. Contributions to fundraisers or cash donations are also greatly appreciated.

Please contact Amanda Garcia at [agarci8@luc.edu](mailto:agarci8@luc.edu) for more information.

### Compelling Stories and Interesting People Wanted

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**Do you have a legal topic that you would like to see us cover?**

**Does your law firm have an outstanding pro bono program?**

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