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*Welcome to the*

16th  
Annual

**PUBLIC INTEREST  
LAW ASSOCIATION  
AUCTION**

*February 19, 2015*

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# **Welcome to the 16th Annual PILA Auction!**

Thank you for joining us on this wonderful evening! Tonight we celebrate community, camaraderie, and giving back. PILA is a student organization dedicated to raising awareness and providing opportunities for public interest legal work to serve our community.

Tonight we honor Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez for her tireless commitment to public interest. Judge Gonzalez's passion and dedication for expanding access to justice makes her an excellent role model.

All proceeds from tonight's auction go directly toward our PILA Summer Grant Program. These grants provide funding for UNLV Boyd School of Law students who commit their summer to unfunded public interest legal positions helping the community.

With your help, we have already raised over \$120,000 since our first auction in 1999. This evening and our Grant Program could not succeed without your generosity!

We appreciate your yearly support of our organization!

With gratitude,

Shaina Plaksin

PILA Co-President & Auction Coordinator

## **Evening Schedule**

5:30pm | Doors Open & Silent Auction Begins

6:00pm | Student-Only Auction Ends

6:30pm | Silent Auction Ends

6:45pm | Opening Remarks & Honoree Presentation

7:00pm | Live Auction begins

7:30pm | Announcement of Auction Winners



*We congratulate  
Silver Staircase Honoree  
Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez  
and applaud the work of the  
Public Interest Law Association*

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# Silver Staircase Honoree

## Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez



Elizabeth Gonzalez is the Presiding Judge of the Civil Division of District Court, handling business, civil and criminal cases. She was appointed to the district court in July 2004. Prior to taking the bench she practiced predominantly in complex civil litigation that included business, mass tort, and construction defect litigation. From 1986 to 1998 she was employed with the law firm of Beckley, Singleton, Jemison & List where she focused on these areas of litigation and served as the firm's president from 1997 to 1998. From 1998 until taking the bench she operated her own firm.

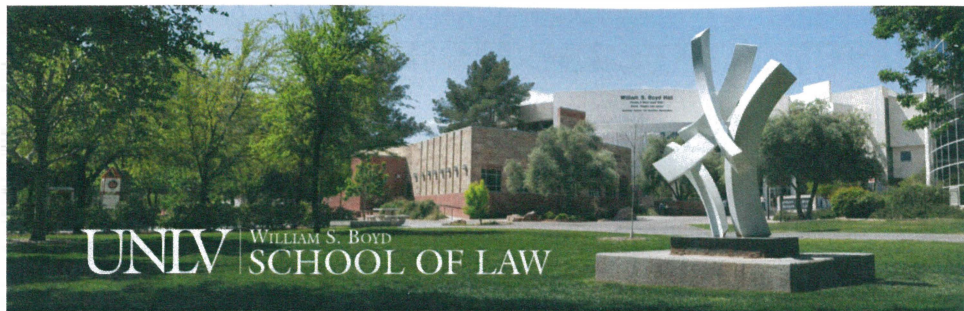
Judge Gonzalez is currently the President of the American College of Business Court Judges. She previously served on the Supreme Court Jury Improvement Commission, the Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada, and the State of Nevada Ethics Commission.

Judge Gonzalez is the former President of the Board of Directors of Clark County Legal Services and a former member of the Eighth Judicial District Bench Bar Committee on Pro Bono. She has long been dedicated to the provision of legal services to all members of the community. Ms. Gonzalez was first recognized for her support of pro bono by the Clark County Pro Bono Project in 1992 and in 2002 was selected Attorney of the Year by the State Bar of Nevada Access to Justice Committee. In 2007 and 2012 Judge Gonzalez received the Justice Nancy Becker Award of Judicial Excellence. She served on the Clark County Legal Services Board, which now coordinates the provision of pro bono services for all of Clark County for over ten years.

The Trial by Peers Program is a partnership of the judiciary, the juvenile justice system, and the Clark County Bar Association diverting certain youthful offenders from the juvenile court system. In 2007 and 2010, Judge Gonzalez was selected as Judge of the Year by the Trial by Peers program.

Judge Gonzalez attained a B.A. in History, with honors, from the University of Florida in May of 1982 and received her law degree from the University of Florida College of Law in 1985. She was admitted to the State Bar of Nevada in 1985.

Since her admission to the Bar, Judge Gonzalez has served on many bar committees, including service as the Regional Chair for the State Bar of Nevada Fee Dispute Committee and a member of the State Bar of Nevada's Functional Equivalency Committee. She also serves as a Master Emeritus of the Nevada American Inn of Court which has as its purpose the enhancement of Nevada lawyer's practical skills, professional awareness and ethical responsibility.



*Nevada's Law School*



The William S. Boyd School of Law  
congratulates the Public Interest Law Association  
for helping to provide opportunities in public interest law  
to our students.

Thanks to the hard work of PILA,  
more grants are available for public interest work  
during the summer than ever before.

We also thank our community partners,  
in particular, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada  
and Nevada Legal Services,  
and look forward to working together to serve Nevadans  
in need of legal assistance.

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Judge Gonzalez,  
congratulations on your  
well-deserved recognition!



# Last Year's PILA Grant Recipients

**Ashleigh Wise**

"I have  
being  
my public

**2014**

broadened my horizons after  
award the PILA grant. Most of  
interest experience is based  
around the taxpayer side of tax controversy. Working at the  
IRS has shown me the other side of the equation. I look  
forward to taking what I learn this summer and applying it to



"I am  
Nevada



currently interning at the  
System of Higher Education.

**Crislove Igeleke**



This opportunity provided me the experience of working  
with the legal counsel for a government agency. Each day  
I am able to assist the attorneys with research and  
analysis of legal and policy questions, draft memos on law  
and appellate briefs, assist with preparation of contracts,  
pleadings, and proposed orders. In addition to being  
exposed to the public practice of law, the PILA grant has  
been a financial help allowing me to spend more days  
working in the office while also volunteering with the  
Thomas and Mack Legal Clinics Kid's Court Program.  
While busy 2L summers are filled with great experiences  
they can also be expensive and I am glad the PILA grant

"As an enrolled and active  
Indian Tribe, my primary



member of the Chemehuevi  
objective is not to become a

**Kostan Lathouris**

lawyer; it is to be an advocate for social and political



change to address the problems faced by American  
Indians. The Public Interest Law Association Summer  
Full Grant has allowed me to pursue this passion by  
endowing me with the means to spend this summer as a  
legal intern with the U.S. Department of the Interior,  
Office of the Solicitor, Division of Indian Affairs—for  
which I am extremely grateful. As a result, I have gained  
experience working with those responsible for providing  
legal counsel and representation to the Secretary of the

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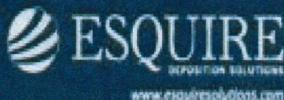


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*Congratulates Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez on  
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for her dedication to public interest.*

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*an inspiration to the*

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