SPIN FAQ

What is SPIN?
SPIN (Student Public Interest Network) is a Temple Law student group. SPIN has three primary goals: (1) support a public interest community at Temple; (2) host events and provide volunteering opportunities for students; (3) raise money for students doing public interest work over the summer.

What is “public interest work”?
Public interest work generally refers to any work that helps disadvantaged populations. At Temple, we define public interest work broadly to include government offices, judicial internships, and non-profit organizations.

Why should I do SPIN?
1. You get to meet other awesome people who are into public interest.
2. You help cultivate Temple Law’s public interest community by promoting, organizing, and attending public interest events and supporting classmates who want to work in public interest.
3. You can contribute to the Philadelphia community at large through volunteering opportunities.
4. If you complete the 15+1 requirement, you receive priority for a Temple Law Foundation Matching Grant.
5. If you complete the 15+1 requirement, you can apply for a SPIN Honors Award.

Why does SPIN raise money for students?
Most public interest jobs do not compensate their summer interns. It is important to us that students who want to work in public interest are able to do so. Public interest internships provide students with an opportunity to make contacts in the public interest field, acquire essential legal skills, and help disadvantaged communities.

How does SPIN raise money for students?
Our biggest fundraising event is an annual Auction held in the spring. The live auction is held at a major law firm in the city and Temple Alums, faculty and students attend. We also have an online auction where anyone can bid on a variety of items. Last year, we raised over $28,000. In addition to the Auction, we have various fundraising events throughout the year.

What is “15+1”?
To be eligible for SPIN Priority, students must complete the 15+1 requirement.

What is 15?
Each SPIN event (community service, lecture, fundraising event, etc.) will be allotted a certain number of points. Points will only be given for events on or after August 8th. You must accumulate 15 points to be eligible for SPIN priority. SPIN will clearly display the number of points for each event. For example, you can attend five 3-point events, fifteen 1-point events, or any combination – the world is your oyster!

Note: While SPIN is committed to maintaining consistent policies, the above system may be subject to revision as required by state, university, and economic circumstances.
So, what is 1?

To raise money at the Auction, we need items for people to bid on! To do this, students are charged with finding businesses, friends, family, acquaintances, or that long-lost middle school friend who are willing to donate to the auction. These items are funding your summer.

SPIN will organize various opportunities for students to solicit for items; this could be in the form of corporate outreach, phone banking, street teams, or something else entirely. You need only participate in one organized group to get “1”; however we would never dissuade someone who is gung-ho about solicitations!

Note: We will send emails and keep a current list of opportunities to ensure that you meet the requirements; however, it is your responsibility to read your emails and pay attention.

Where does summer funding come from?
Summer funding, or federal work study, is handled through the Financial Aid. Detailed information about summer work study can be found here: http://www.law.temple.edu/Pages/Current_Students/Current_Work_Study.aspx If you have any questions about your eligibility, or details about work study then please contact Financial Aid directly.

So what is SPIN Priority?
Students who are eligible for work study are able to earn up to $4,000 from work study funds (handled by Financial Aid). However, in order to get paid from the fund, employers need to contribute 25% ($1,000) to the earnings. Most employers cannot contribute the matching funds (and students themselves are not allowed to supply the matching grant) so the Temple Law Foundation Matching Grants helps contribute. SPIN contributes directly to this fund and because Temple supports public interest students, the financial aid office has a policy that those who complete the SPIN requirements (see above) will have priority for this funding.

Do I need priority?
There is no guarantee that everyone who applies will be granted work study. To help ensure likelihood of summer funding, completing SPIN requirements (thus making you eligible for priority funding) helps increase your chances of summer funding.

What is a SPIN Honors Award?
Students who fulfill the 15+1 requirement can apply for a SPIN Honors Award. This award is intended to reward students for exceptional contributions to SPIN and public interest generally. The award is in addition to money received through federal work-study. Recipients of the award are selected based on commitment to SPIN, passion for public interest, and summer work placement. The amount of the award depends on the amount of money raised at the auction and demand for SPIN awards.
How many points do I have so far? Where do I report this information?
Law is a self-policing profession and that begins in law school. Students are bound by the honor system to keep track of and accurately report their points. Information about applying for SPIN Honors Awards and receiving priority for Temple Law Foundation Matching Grants will be available in March. You indicate priority funding in your work study application through the Financial Aid office.