

FUNDING SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST EMPLOYMENT

Funding constraints and the popularity of certain programs allow public interest employers to offer positions with little or no salary. Although paid positions do exist, one of the greatest challenges to public interest employment is securing funding. Yet, it is important to remember that salary is not the only reason to pursue summer employment. One significant goal is to gain experience and networking contacts. Working without financial compensation truly demonstrates your commitment to public interest law and the public sector.

PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP

The following list contains information about programs that fund internships or projects for multiple students. Remember that some individual organizations and offices pay summer law interns or host fellowship programs for their organizations to host summer interns. The application deadlines listed below are general dates based upon past experience. Students must contact the organization to find this year's deadline and application procedure.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW INITIATIVE

25 East Jackson Boulevard

Suite 945

Chicago, IL 60604

312-362-6959

www.pili-law.org

- ❑ First and second year students can apply for 10-week summer internships.
- ❑ PILI provides dozens of internships at public interest law agencies in the Chicago metropolitan area.
- ❑ Applicants select organizations to work for and apply to that organization. If accepted, PILI pays the intern's salary for the summer. Each organization evaluates applications based on its own standards. A demonstrated commitment to public interest law is helpful.
- ❑ Summer stipend of \$4,500.
- ❑ Applications are accepted beginning in October with the deadline in March. Many agencies hire on a rolling basis so the earlier you apply the better.

EVERETT PUBLIC SERVICE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

c/o Co-op America

1612 K Street NW, Suite 600

Washington, DC 20006

202-872-5335

www.everettinternships.org

- ❑ Everett provides stipends for summer internships at public interest organizations nationwide (mostly in Washington DC and New York).
- ❑ Their web site provides for listings of host organizations. Sponsors more than 140 paid legal and nonlegal internships.
- ❑ \$225 per week for 10 weeks of work.
- ❑ Application deadlines vary and should be sent to the desired organization.

NATIONAL LAWYERS' GUILD SUMMER PROJECTS

NLG National Office
126 University Place
5th Floor
New York, NY 10036

www.nlg.org

- ❑ NLG offers \$2,000 grants to summer Fellows for 10 weeks of work. (Students are encouraged to pursue matching public interest grants or course credit to supplement the grant.)
- ❑ Applicants select their desired organization and project from a list maintained by NLG. The organizations are located throughout the United States and internationally.
- ❑ Applications are due in January.

PRIDE LAW FUND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

P.O. Box 2602
San Francisco, CA 94126-2602
415-956-1000

- ❑ The Pride Law Fund manages four fellowships which fund summer internship opportunities for students seeking experience in the areas of sexual orientation discrimination, individual rights litigation, direct legal services to people with HIV/AIDS, and other legal issues of concern to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community.
- ❑ The number of fellowships given each year is discretionary.
- ❑ In the past, stipends have ranged from \$300-\$2500. Preference is given to projects being completed in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- ❑ Application deadline is usually in March.

CHILD WELFARE LAW SUMMER FELLOWS

Michigan Child Welfare Law Resource Center
University of Michigan Law School
611 Church Street, Suite 4C
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-3000

www.law.umich.edu/childlaw

- ❑ Sixteen law students are selected each summer for their interest and ability in child welfare law.
- ❑ Each Fellow receives several days of training at University of Michigan Law School. After training, Fellows work in child welfare offices and organizations across the country.
- ❑ The program will pay for travel and the training in Ann Arbor.
- ❑ Deadline for applying is usually in January. Students must find their own employment.

FINANCING AN UNPAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP

If you have found a exciting position in public interest, but are concerned about accepting because the position is unpaid, do not despair because there are numerous outside sources for funding. Just be creative in thinking about funding. In looking for funding, watch the Daily Docket for postings and explore the internet with guidance from handouts available in the Career Services resource room. There are also materials on reserve in the Career Services book room that contain a wealth of information on financing your summer.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR UNPAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS SUMMER LEGAL CORPS

2120 L Street, NW
Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
202-466-3686
www.napil.org

- ❑ Serve in internships at non-profit, public interest organizations of your choosing.
- ❑ In exchange for 300 hours of service, earn a \$1,000 education award, which can be used towards qualified student loans or other educational expenses, upon completion of the program.
- ❑ Applications made available in winter and grants are given on a rolling basis.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA LEGAL SERVICES FELLOWSHIP

www.equaljusticeamerica.org

- ❑ \$3,250 for 10 weeks of work.
- ❑ Available to students who will be providing direct legal service for low-income populations.
- ❑ Deadline is generally in mid-March.

ABA JOHN CURTIN, JR. JUSTICE FUND

www.abanet.org/homeless/curtin.html

- ❑ \$2,000 stipend.
- ❑ Program needs to be related to homelessness.
- ❑ Deadline is generally early-March.

HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF D.C.

www.hbadc.org/found.htm

- ❑ \$3,000 stipend.
- ❑ Funds public interest legal work at non-profit organization in the Washington DC area.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION (PILF) SUMMER GRANTS

The University of Illinois Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) is a student-managed organization dedicated to bringing public interest law careers to the attention of law students. Each year PILF raises money to provide grants to unpaid University of Illinois students undertaking public interest work over the summer.

- ❑ Applications made available in winter and grants are given on a rolling basis.
- ❑ Applications are usually made available in March or April. Applicants provide information about their planned summer employment and other funding sources. Commitment to the organization is taken into consideration in deciding grant amounts.
- ❑ The size of the grant awarded to an individual student varies each year. Previous grants have ranged from \$100-\$2000.

OTHER PLACES TO CONSIDER

- ❑ Churches and religious organizations.
- ❑ Employers or resources at your placement.
- ❑ Civic Organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.).
- ❑ Foundations or traditional grant sources.

ALTERNATIVES TO FUNDING

Funding is not the only answer to surviving as a volunteer intern or extern. You can reduce housing costs by living with friends or relatives, in campus housing or sublet your apartment. Some students have obtained part-time work to supplement their summer legal work. Also, do not under value the importance of the experience, contacts and networking you can accomplish during your internship or externship.

EXTERNSHIPS

- Students participating in legal work without compensation at approved non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, or for judges can earn academic credit for their work. The students must work under the direct supervision of an attorney and complete assignments such as interviewing clients and witnesses; researching legal questions; preparing pleadings; drafting discovery motions and briefs; and, in some instances, trying cases.
- To gain credit for an externship, students must have approval of the College of Law Clinical Externship Director before beginning work. Student must complete hourly work requirements and externship evaluations to receive credit. For more information about externship credit requirements and an application, contact Assistant Dean Virginia Vermillion in the Office of Career Services.

PRO BONO NOTATION

- The College of Law offers an optional “pro bono” notation on its transcripts for students who perform 60 hours of pro bono service during their three years of law school. The notation will appear on the official and unofficial transcripts of qualified students. It will also appear on the report card for the semester in which the Pro Bono Notation is earned. On official transcript and report cards, the notation will read, “Pro Bono Service.”
- More detailed information about the *pro bono* notation and an application are available in the Career Services Resource Room.