

TIPS FOR PUBLIC INTEREST JOB SEARCH

- ❑ **Start Early and Be Persistent:** Even though public interest employers usually hire later than large law firms, it is never too early to start a job search. Although general hiring might occur later in the academic year, this is not true for certain post-graduate fellowships and certain government internships.
- ❑ **Be Mindful of Deadlines:** Deadlines often depend on the objectives of the employers as well as the level of position being filled. Do not rely on application deadline for last year; things change from year to year.
- ❑ **Be Ready and Able:** It is important to remember that finding a public interest job can be just as difficult and competitive as jobs with major law firms.

RESEARCH PHASE

Researching for public interest jobs can require more time and creativity than searching for positions in law firms. Many public interest and government employers lack the finances and resources to participate in On-Campus Interviews. Therefore, students may need to seek out employers instead of waiting for the opportunities to appear at the College of Law.

Before students begin researching specific positions, many students will need to conduct a self-assessment to determine their skills, interests, values, and goals. Investing time to think about what type of organization or issue-area you want to work for will help determine what type of job search to conduct. For example, if you are interested in issues of domestic violence and want to provide direct legal services, looking for positions at legal clinics that assist victims of domestic violence will be a great place to start the job search. Also, knowing what you feel passionate about will help convey enthusiasm during an interview.

The research phase contains two parts: 1) developing an understanding of the public sector and the specific field that you want to enter; and 2) finding public interest employment opportunities in your area of interest. Information pertaining to both of these objectives often can be found in the same sources.

The number and types of sources where students can search for information about jobs and internships is endless. Be creative!