

CALL FOR LEGAL INTERNSHIP APPLICANTS – ACLU OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (ACLU-DC)

The ACLU-DC seeks law students (any year of school) for full-summer internships in the summer of 2020.

The ACLU-DC is an affiliate office of the American Civil Liberties Union, a national nonprofit organization devoted to the protection of civil liberties and civil rights through litigation, legislation, and public education. The ACLU-DC works primarily on issues that directly impact people who live in, work in, and visit the District of Columbia, and also on challenges to certain federal government policies and practices where they fall within the jurisdiction of the D.C. federal courts.

Among the matters currently on our docket are: representing Black Lives Matter-DC in challenging the failure of D.C. police to comply with a D.C. law requiring collection of comprehensive data, including on subjects' race and ethnicity, about all police stops in D.C.; a lawsuit over mass arrests, excessive uses of force, and unlawful conditions of confinement imposed by D.C. police on demonstrators, journalists, and legal observers on Inauguration Day 2017; negotiating with the D.C. Department of Public Works to obtain a reasonable accommodation for an employee who uses medical marijuana off duty to treat a disabling medical condition; and suing the administrative arm of the federal judiciary to enjoin new rules that would prohibit more than 1,000 federal employees from expressing their views publicly about partisan candidates for office. To learn more about our work, visit acludc.org.

NATURE OF INTERNSHIP

Legal interns will be exposed to and participate in the process of developing and litigating impact cases to advance civil rights and liberties. The legal intern's primary duties will be conducting legal research for current and potential cases (and ongoing policy work where it intersects with potential litigation opportunities), and drafting memoranda, pleadings, motions, and/or discovery requests. Legal interns will also likely be asked to interview potential clients and help investigate the facts of potential cases.

Depending on the state of our docket in summer 2020, interns are likely to have additional opportunities to become immersed in the work of the ACLU-DC's Legal department, including attending listening sessions to learn what civil rights concerns impact people who live and work in D.C.; legal strategy sessions; and court proceedings, depositions, and client meetings. ACLU-DC staff believe strongly in mentorship and in thorough and timely feedback on all work product.

Financial stipends of \$6,000 available for accepted candidates. Interns receive a public-transportation stipend as well.



District
of Columbia

915 15th St. NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 457-0800
acludc.org

QUALIFICATIONS

- You are currently a law student (any year).
- You have excellent work ethic, including dependability, diligence, the ability to take ownership over projects, and the commitment to see projects through to completion in a fast-paced, collaborative environment.
- You are receptive to feedback, enthusiastic about learning and self-improvement, and eager to incorporate feedback into future work.
- You have an excellent foundation in legal research, including the judgment to discern what cases are relevant to a particular research question, and thoroughness in covering the question asked.
- You have (or are well along in developing) the capacity to engage in thoughtful and perceptive legal analysis, including the ability to build a logical and persuasive argument, to read and understand legal decisions and statutes, and to grasp whether and how legal authorities apply to a new set of facts.
- You have (or are well along in developing) excellent legal writing skills, including the ability to present ideas in a clear and organized manner and to write a memo that teaches the reader what you have learned through research (whether the meaning of a specific case or the state of a body of law in general).
- You have the empathy and interpersonal skills necessary to connect with, listen to, learn from, and ask questions of clients and other community members.

TO APPLY

The deadline for applying is **11:59pm Eastern time on Sunday, October 20, 2019**. To apply, send an email to hr@acludc.org. The email should include the following attachments:

1. A copy of your resume that lists relevant experience.
2. A statement of interest of no more than 600 words that addresses the following three topics:
 - a. What civil rights/liberties issue do you feel is most pressing right now and why?
 - b. How do your skills and experiences make you a good fit for this position?
 - c. Describe a specific example of when you took ownership (or responsibility) of a project or assignment. What did it mean to you to take ownership? What was the end result?
3. A list of three references, including a sentence about each one identifying what information the person can provide. We find particularly helpful the perspective of a practicing attorney or clinical supervisor who has worked with you, but we are also interested in speaking with professors, community members, coworkers, or others who can speak to your relevant skills and experience.
4. In place of a transcript, a list of all law school courses that you have taken, are currently taking, or (where applicable) are scheduled to take next semester.

*The ACLU-DC is an equal opportunity employer. We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. The ACLU-DC encourages applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, veteran status, or any other classification protected by the D.C. Human Rights Act or federal employment law. **If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation regarding any part of the application process, please include your accommodation request(s) in your application email.***