



SUMMER CLERKSHIP, EXTERNSHIP, & FIELD PLACEMENT PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES FOR WSRSL LAW STUDENTS

The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest non-profit law firm, provides legal assistance to low and moderate income individuals and families in the areas of housing, consumer protection, public benefit, family and immigration.

Law students can contribute to their community while gaining valuable experience in the public interest field through the following opportunities.

Direct Client Contact and Representation: Law students often have the opportunity participate in ongoing representation side by side with their supervising attorneys. Students may interview and counsel clients, draft pleadings, prepare discovery, assist in teaching "clinics" and, in some cases, may even represent clients in Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Department of Human Services, Social Security Administration and/or Child Support Enforcement Agency administrative proceedings.

Develop Written Materials: Law students can assist to develop, format, and revise written materials and court forms which assist clients with common legal and economic problems.

Research & Special Projects: Law student's skills in research and writing are often utilized for research projects. Past projects include drafting memoranda for ongoing litigation, the creation of a housing law manual, researching and assessing current legal and social issues affecting children nationwide and in Hawai'i, investigating payday lenders and their effects on the low-income population and creating and revising our Consumer Law Manual and our Public Benefits Manual.

SUMMER CLERKSHIP

Legal Aid hosts 6-12 summer law clerks each year. Positions may be available in our Honolulu, Waianae, Kaneohe, Kauai, Kona, Hilo, Maui, and Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid offices.

Summer Law Clerks attend a 3 day poverty law training plus training specific to their project or practice areas. Each student is assigned to an office, unit or project where they conduct legal research, draft pleadings, meet with clients and, when possible, represent

clients at administrative hearings. Summer law clerks are expected to work full-time for approximately 10-12 weeks beginning in late May or early June.

Law Students are encouraged to find their own funding through public interest grants, including Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL) grants. Potential APIL applicants should apply with Legal Aid early. The Chris Iijima Fellowship, provided in partnership with APIL, will provide a modest stipend to one student selected to serve at the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid. At least two positions will be eligible to receive a modest education award via our AmeriCorps program.

Summer Clerkship applications will be accepted until all positions are filled, but students are encouraged to submit a resume and cover letter indicating a strong preference for office or subject matter focus by end of December and well in advance of the APIL Grant application deadline.

EXTERNSHIPS & PRO BONO HOURS

Law student volunteers often receive credit for an externship or fulfill their 60-hour pro bono requirement. Pro bono and externship opportunities depend on the needs and supervisor availability of each Legal Aid office as well as the skill level and interest of the student.

A minimum time commitment of 8 hours/week for 3 months is generally requested for all Legal Aid volunteers, although some limited time specific projects may be available. Please note that we accept summer volunteers only through our full-time summer clerkship program. **Plan early** to fulfill your pro bono requirement as applications during the holidays and shortly before graduation cannot all be accommodated.

FIELD PLACEMENT SPRING 2019

Field placements for up to four students is also available for a Legal Design Thinking Field Placement where students will learn design thinking methodologies and apply it to create potentially new client-based approaches to providing civil legal services to the community.

Potential areas of focus may include new approaches to providing disaster legal assistance, enhancing client experiences with legal services, or expanding access to legal information or advice. Students interested in this area should have clinical or summer clerkship experience.

For more information, please contact Director of External Relations Sergio Alcubilla at sergio.alcubilla@legalaidhawaii.org or visit www.legalaidhawaii.org. If you are interested in field placement, a specific pro bono opportunity, or summer clerkship please mention this in your initial contact.