Finding & Funding Public Interest Summer Employment

Fellowships Available Exclusively for Students at Duke Law School:

Steckley/Weitzel, Burdman, and Carroll/Simon Endowed Fellowships - Duke Law School has three endowments set up to support summer fellowships for Duke Law students. These endowments were established through the generosity of the following donors: former Associate Dean Linda Steckley and her husband, Pete Weitzel; Duke Alumnus Richard Burdman '56; and Duke Alumni couple Candace Carroll '74 and Len Simon '73. Thirty-five endowed fellowships, in varying amounts, were awarded to Duke Law students for public interest work in Summer 2010.

Dean’s Summer Service Grant - Established in 2010, this new program supports summer work in public service or public law. The Dean’s Summer Service Grant guarantees funding for second year law students who: 1) complete 10 hours of pro bono work during the school year; and 2) secure a summer position with a public service organization. In 2010, $72,500 was distributed to 31 qualifying recipients.

Stanback Summer Fellowships for Environmental Placements - Available to Duke Law students, this program is sponsored by the Nicholas School of the Environment through a donation from Fred Stanback. The number of fellowships awarded in past years has ranged from 4 - 18, including 4 in the summer of 2008, 5 in 2009, and 18 in summer 2010. In 2010, the award was $4500 per student. Out of the 30 or more placements offered each year, at least 10 are target law-related environmental work. Students do not need to be specialists in environmental law to receive these awards. Check the website of the Nicholas School of the Environment for information on applying for a Stanback Fellowship, as well as for descriptions of the projects and placements available under the fellowship. Contact Stella Boswell, in the Career Center, for more information.

Public Interest Law Foundation – The Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), created and run by Duke Law students, raises funds for summer public interest fellowships. In 2010, PILF awarded $64,200 in summer grants to 36 Duke Law students. PILF members determine the criteria for selection, and divide the money among all eligible applicants, according to a formula. Only students who contribute a minimum number of hours a year (currently 20) to help raise PILF funds are eligible to apply for a PILF summer grant. To learn how you can become involved, visit the PILF website.

PILF’s ongoing fundraising activities and substantial support from Duke Law School make the PILF summer grants possible. Funds are raised through an annual PILF auction, sweatshirt sales, trivia night, pledge drive (students working in the private sector are asked to contribute one day’s pay) and other activities.

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Please note that none of the fellowships described above will provide funding for judicial clerkships. Few clerkships are paid positions, but North Carolina is an exception. Funding is available for some North Carolina Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Clerkships, and other North Carolina government agencies, through the NC State Government Intern Program.
**Fellowships and Funding Offered by Other Organizations:**

**Equal Justice Works** – Supplemental fellowships of $1000 each are available, and Duke Law students with public interest job placements have received these in past summers. In summer 2010, 6 Duke Law students received these supplemental fellowships. For several years, the application period has been in March (over spring break). Look for announcements at www.equaljusticeworks.org

**Paid summer internships** – some examples include:
- Legal Services of New Jersey, see www.lsnj.org/internprog.htm
- The Peggy Browning Fund supports labor law positions for students, see www.peggybrowningfund.org
- The Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) funds public interest internships in Chicago, see www.pili-law.org
- The Center for Death Penalty Litigation in Durham, see www.cdpl.org
- The Center for Community Self-Help in Durham occasionally has paid summer internships.
- Legal Aid of North Carolina has paid summer internships called the MLK Summer Fellowship Program.
- The Florida Bar Foundation’s IOLTA program has well-paying internships and is interested in Duke Law applicants, see Florida's IOLTA at www.flabarfndn.org
- More! Be sure to browse listings on Symplicity for additional job announcements.

**See PSLawNet for Additional Paying Opportunities** – The most comprehensive source for law student public interest job postings is available at www.pslawnet.org

**How to Find Summer Fellowships and Jobs:**

**Counseling:** See Kim Bart, Assistant Dean for Public Interest & Pro Bono, and Stella Boswell, Senior Career Counselor in the Career Center.

**Publications:** See Harvard Law School’s Public Interest Job Search Guide (Volume I for the U.S. and Volume II for International), which provides an overview of how to conduct a public interest job search and has good samples of cover letters and resumes. Copies are available in the Career Center and Office of Public Interest and Pro Bono. The content of the HLS Public Interest Search Guide also is available on PSLawNet.org

**Job Announcements:** The Career Center sends a weekly email with a sampling of current funded and unfunded public interest, government, and fellowship opportunities. Duke Law’s Symplicity job search site also includes many postings.

**Websites:**
- PSLawNet.org is available to Duke Law students through the Law School’s subscription. A comprehensive database of government agencies and non-profit organizations and NGO’s worldwide, it also has summer and permanent jobs listings; a “Fellowship Corner“ about post-graduate fellowships; a list of law firms that sponsor split summers of law firm work and public interest work; specialty guides on areas of practice; international opportunities; and much more.
- Idealist.org generally is a website that facilitates connections between individuals and institutions that are interested in improving communities. The site has postings for jobs and volunteer opportunities in the law, as well as other fields of employment.
- ExecSearches.com is a job search website that focuses on not-for-profit organizations.
- The University of Arizona School of Law publishes a comprehensive guide for summer and permanent jobs in the federal government, including Honors Programs, and is available to Duke law students through the Law School’s subscription. See www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm The appendixes at the end of the guide list positions by class year and application deadline.