Summer Jobs in Government and Public Interest

Duke Law Resources:

- Review weekly emails from the Career Center, look for job postings on Symplicity, and sign up for the Public Interest Listserv: https://lists.law.duke.edu/sympa/info/publicinterest.
- Please see the list of where Duke Law students have worked during the last two summers on the Office of Public Interest Advising Jobs Resources website (http://law.duke.edu/career/publicinterest/jobresources), under the link ‘Government & Public Interest Job Placements, Summers of 2013 and 2014.’
- Talk with faculty and career counselors about their contacts and ability to assist you.
- Duke Law Summer Public Interest Funding website https://law.duke.edu/publicinterest/summerfunding/. This site explains the different types of funding available to Duke Law students each summer.

Top On-line Resources:

- **PSJD.org**: This site is one of the most comprehensive resources for government and public interest jobs. Based on Duke’s membership, it is free to all Duke students and alumni. It includes job postings as well as contact information for all kinds of organizations for your outreach efforts; students are encouraged to research employers, rather than just job postings, as many employers do not post jobs and internships. The Resource Center (http://www.psjd.org/resource_center) has great information about many types of positions (including a “must read” section for Federal Government Employment, prosecutors’ offices, public defender offices, a state by state listing of resources and more.)
- **Government Honors Programs**: The best resource for these is the Government Honors and Internship Handbook (the Arizona Guide) http://www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm (user: thin password: mints). See the front page for alphabetized federal positions followed by state positions. The APPENDIX also lists deadlines for positions by class year. ALWAYS also go to the agency website. It is important to note that there are many agencies that do not post summer internships but would like to have volunteer interns so you must identify the agencies and contact them directly. Also, search state law websites for state programs.
- **Yellow Books/Leadership Directories**: This on-line resource allows you to search leaders and staff in all kinds of organizations including government agencies, non-profits, colleges and universities, courts, NGOs and more. You can search to find full contact information for department heads, regional office heads, general counsel and more. You can also find outreach contacts by undergraduate or law school affiliation. Go to the Duke Law Library website www.law.duke.edu/lib/index and under “Research Help” click “More Databases.” Under “Search” type in “Leadership Library.” When you click “The Leadership Libraries,” you will be asked to enter your Duke net ID and password.
- **The Arizona Public Policy Handbook**: The handbook lists internships and post-graduate positions that are public policy related. Students can access it at: www.law.arizona.edu/publicpolicyhandbook/ through Duke’s subscription (user: rain; password: forest).
- **Opportunities in Public Affairs**: This publication includes internships and jobs on the Hill, in government/legislative affairs, and more. There is an Entry Level Positions and Internships Section but we

*From the Office of Public Interest Advising*

- **Idealist.org**: This is one of the best sites for non-profit job postings. You can set it to email all new legal job postings to you on a daily basis.

****** REMEMBER**: As with other types of jobs, MANY positions are UNPOSTED. It is critical that your search include networking, outreach and applying to organizations that do not post current hiring needs or positions. This is particularly important for government and public interest organizations as they often lack the resources to pay interns or actively recruit candidates.

**Special Programs:**

**Stanback Environmental Internships**: Duke’s Nicholas School of the Environment alumni, Fred and Alice Stanback, provide funding for ≈ 155 internships with 50 environmental organizations each summer. These internships are open only to Duke students, including law students. Some of the organizations are doing legal work and specifically recruiting law students while others may be doing government affairs or policy work which is also suitable summer work for law students. The internships are located all over the country and are funded with a $5,000 stipend for eleven weeks (note: shorter internships may be arranged by approval and funds will be pro-rated.) Law students apply for positions in one of two ways: (1) by searching Stanback positions posted on Symplicity (the Office of Public Interest Advising maintains a Stanback website law.duke.edu/career/publicinterest/Stanback/) as well) and (2) through the Nicholas School’s Duke Environment Career Link system that will open in January. Law students should contact Emily Sharples (sharples@law.duke.edu) with questions about or assistance with Stanback applications.

**Legal Aid of NC (LANC)/Duke Law Summer Internship**: Duke Law has partnered with Legal Aid of North Carolina for the past five summers to offer a special summer internship program working in one of LANC’s offices around the state. Interns first complete a week long “Civil Litigation Boot Camp” taught by Duke Law faculty and LANC lawyers. Students spend the remainder of the summer in one of Legal Aid’s local offices or special programs assisting low income clients with legal issues. Every effort is made to give student interns the opportunity to personally conduct a hearing either in court (2Ls) or in front of an administrative law judge (1Ls) under the supervision of a LANC attorney. Information about this program for 2015 will be available in January or February.

**Additional Resources:**

- Many additional internet-based resources are included in the Career Manual and located on the Career Center website.