



For economic and racial justice

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Job Announcement: December 1, 2020

Position Title: Summer 2021 Legal Intern

Reports to: Director of Healthcare Justice, Director of Housing Justice, Director of Community Justice, Director of Economic Justice, or Director of Legal Impact Network

Location: Chicago, IL

The Shriver Center on Poverty Law fights for economic and racial justice. Over the past 50 years, we have secured hundreds of law and policy victories with and for people experiencing economic instability in Illinois and across the country.

Everything we do is powered by communities most affected by poverty. We litigate, shape local policy, and train and convene multi-state networks of lawyers, community leaders, and activists to advance opportunity for all—not just the few.

Our country is rife with laws and policies that systematically disadvantage certain groups while advantaging others based on their race, gender, and other facets of their identities. We believe laws and policies—and the institutions that apply them—should be designed to support people. Together, we're turning this ideal into reality.

We are building a future where all people, families, and future generations have equal dignity, respect, and power under the law. Join the fight at povertylaw.org.

Position Overview: Legal interns will be assigned to one of five Advocacy teams:

- The **Legal Impact Network (LIN)** is a network of statewide, multi-issue legal advocacy organizations from thirty-three states and the District of Columbia that seek to change systems that perpetuate poverty and racial inequity through multi-state legal and policy advocacy. LIN's portfolio covers multiple issues (e.g., public benefits, housing, jail reduction) using a variety of advocacy tools (e.g., legal and policy advocacy, organizing, communications). An internship with the LIN team, therefore, offers experience as a generalist.
- The **Healthcare Justice** team engages in administrative and legislative advocacy, provider training, and individual and class litigation, if necessary, to ensure access to quality healthcare. We advocate primarily to improve healthcare coverage and access for BIPOC communities who are at disproportionate risk of being uninsured, lack access to care, and experience worse health outcomes.
- The **Community Justice** team focuses on both the criminal legal and foster systems. The team works on systemic policy change campaigns to reduce the impact of each system in the lives of Illinoisans across the state.

- The **Economic Justice** team focuses on changing systems to ensure that workers receive good wages and strong supports such as paid sick leave and family/medical leave and have the ability to access public benefits that help families thrive. We also help protect worker health and safety and fight discrimination. In addition, the team promotes state budget and tax policies that benefit the lowest income taxpayers and provide sufficient funding for the programs we champion.
- The **Housing Justice** team is dedicated to ensuring that every person has access to safe, decent, and affordable housing, and to advancing racial equity in housing law and policy. Currently, we focus especially closely on the preservation of subsidized and affordable housing, ensuring access to housing for justice-involved individuals, and adapting to the exigencies of the pandemic during this time of political transition. We engage in advocacy through a variety of litigation and policy advocacy, focusing especially on supporting communities at the grassroots level.

Responsibilities:

- Provide legal research and writing in support of ongoing litigation efforts.
- Complete policy research assignments.
- Attend community meetings and events.

Qualifications:

- Currently attending law school.
- Excellent oral/written communication skills.
- Dedicated, independent, and detail-oriented.
- Experience working with racially and economically diverse communities.
- Demonstrated commitment to the Shriver Center on Poverty Law's mission, vision, and values.

Salary/Benefits: \$2,500, with taxes withheld as appropriate. Interns are strongly encouraged to seek additional funding elsewhere or course credit.

Opening/Closing Date: All application materials will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The Intern Hiring Committee will consider all applications immediately after applications are received.

Applications: Send cover letter, resume, and writing sample to the intern hiring committee at hr@povertylaw.org. **Applicants must specify in their cover letter which team(s) they would prefer to work with and why.**

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Shriver Center employees have been encouraged to work remotely from home. At this time, we ask that interns be able to do the same.

At the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, we know that a richly diverse mix of professionals makes organizations more effective. As such, we make demographic and experiential diversity a hallmark and priority of all our work.