

SUMMER 2016 LEGAL INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation

Criminal Law Reform Project, New York, NY

For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been our nation's guardian of liberty, working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States. Whether it's ending mass incarceration, achieving full equality for the LGBT community, establishing new privacy protections for our digital age, or preserving the right to vote or the right to have an abortion, the ACLU takes up the toughest civil liberties cases and issues to defend all people from government abuse and overreach. With more than a million members, activists, and supporters, the ACLU is a nationwide organization that fights tirelessly in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C., for the principle that every individual's rights must be protected equally under the law, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability or national origin.

The **Criminal Law Reform Project** of the ACLU's national office in New York City invites applications for the **Summer 2016 Criminal Law Reform Legal Internship**.

OVERVIEW

The Criminal Law Reform Project seeks to end excessively harsh criminal justice policies that result in mass incarceration and stand in the way of a just and equal society. The Project focuses its work at the "front end" of the criminal justice system, from policing to sentencing, with an emphasis on ending racial injustice in the implementation of our criminal laws. The Project fulfills its mission through strategic litigation and advocacy that promotes reform of the criminal justice system and drug laws in particular, which have failed to achieve public safety and health while putting unprecedented numbers of people behind bars, reduces the number of people entering the system, and protects the constitutional rights of those in the system.

The Project's current priorities include: challenging police and prosecutorial misconduct and other government abuses of power that violate constitutional rights; reducing reliance on incarceration, with a focus on decriminalizing drug offenses and shortening sentencing schemes overall; reforming indigent defense systems and protecting the right to counsel; and reducing racial disparity in the criminal justice system through challenging the selective enforcement of criminal laws. In addition to these core priorities, the Project also includes work in the following areas: challenging unconstitutional bail practices, marijuana law reform, including protecting emerging rights of the seriously-ill to use medical marijuana; and addressing the criminal justice implications of emerging surveillance technologies.

The Project is part of the ACLU's Center for Justice, which also includes the National Prison Project and the Capital Punishment Project. The Center seeks to transform the U.S. criminal justice system into one that views incarceration as an option of last - not first - resort; that is effective, fair, and free of racial bias; that rejects death as a legitimate form of punishment; and that is evidence-based rather than fear-based.

INTERNSHIP OVERVIEW

The internship is full-time and typically requires a 10 week commitment with a preferred start date of May 31, 2016.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Interns will have the opportunity to gain valuable experience by working alongside the Criminal Law Reform Project team. Interns will gain hands-on experience in all aspects of litigation work possibly including but not limited to:

- Conducting research on prospects for new litigation, including both factual and legal claims.
- Participating in discovery and motion practice.
- Working on the drafting of motions and briefs.
- Working with trials and appeals.

DESIRED EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

This legal internship is open to all law students. Applicants should possess:

- Excellent research, writing and communication skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, including internet research.
- Demonstrated initiative to see projects through to completion.
- Demonstrated interest in social justice, racial justice, and legal issues.
- A strong interest in and commitment to civil rights and civil liberties issues.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should send a cover letter describing their interest in criminal law reform and civil liberties, including any relevant life or work experience gained before or during law school; a resume, the names and telephone numbers of three references, and a legal writing sample to

hrjobsCLRP@aclu.org - reference [CLRP Summer 2016 Legal Internship/ACLU-LISTSRV] in the subject line. *Please note that this is not the general ACLU applicant email address. This email address is specific to Criminal Law Reform Project postings. In order to ensure your application is received please make certain it is sent to the correct e-mail address.*

Please indicate in your cover letter where you learned of this internship opportunity.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

This job description provides a general but not comprehensive list of the essential responsibilities and qualifications required. It does not represent a contract of employment. The ACLU reserves the right to change the description and/or posting at any time without advance notice.

The ACLU is an equal opportunity employer. We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. The ACLU encourages applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, and veteran status.

The ACLU undertakes affirmative action strategies in its recruitment and employment efforts to assure that persons with disabilities have full opportunities for employment in all positions.

We encourage applicants with disabilities who may need accommodations in the application process to contact:hrjobsincl@aclu.org. Correspondence sent to this email address that is not related to requests for accommodations will not be reviewed. Applicants should follow the instructions above regarding how to apply.

The ACLU comprises two separate corporate entities, the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation. Both the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation are national organizations with the same overall mission, and share office space and employees. The ACLU has two separate corporate entities in order to do a broad range of work to protect civil liberties. This job posting refers collectively to the two organizations under the name "ACLU."