IL Public Interest & Government Summer Job Search

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Career Development Office
Why a Public Interest or Government Career May Be Right For You

• General interest in public service; pursue justice for underserved causes and communities
• Desire to become a specialist
• Interest in a legal career that includes advocacy, policy & politics
• Quality of Life & High Levels of Professional Satisfaction
• Loan Repayment Program Opportunities
• More immediate responsibility and substantive assignments
• **GOV**: Competitive salary & benefits
• **GOV**: Lateral opportunities (GOV’T & private sector; from DC-CA)
Overview of FED GOV

• The FED GOV is like a large public law firm with many different practice areas

• Attorneys work in all 3 branches of GOV – **litigating** civil & criminal cases, **counseling** lawmakers, drafting statutes & regulations, issuing administrative legal opinions, etc.

• Most attorneys (nearly 100K) work in executive branch and independent agencies (e.g., FCC, NLRB, Fed Reserve)
What kind of work do government lawyers do?

- **Litigate**
- **Regulate**
- **Advise**
- **Develop Public Policy**
What kind of work do government lawyers do?

- **Litigate**: The DOJ is the place to be – central agency for enforcement of federal laws – main litigating branch of US GOV; HQ in DC w/93 USAO nationwide & many field offices in major U.S. cities.
  - Other offices with litigating authority: DOL & SEC; many other agencies coordinate w/DOJ on lawsuits; contributing subject matter expertise.

- **Regulate**: lawyers who are at the forefront of forming and enforcing new rules (FDA, EPA) – implementing new rules and regulations.
What kind of work do government lawyers do?

- **Advise**: Helping clients comply with the law (attorney-advisors; counselors) – work on congressional inquiries, FOIA requests, rulemaking and citizen petitions.

- **Develop Public Policy**: Looking beyond attorney positions – State, Commerce, Congressional Research Service; PMF Program.
Berkeley Law students have interned in all of these offices.

Federal Agencies w/ SF Field Offices

DOJ (Antitrust, EOIR, ENRD, USAO)
EPA
SEC
Dept. of Homeland Security
Labor (Admin. Law Judges & Employee Benefits Security Admin.)
NLRB
SSA
Federal (Public) Defenders
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Dept. of Education
HHS

Dept. of the Interior
DEA
Federal Reserve Board
FTC
GAO
Comptroller of Currency
U.S. Coast Guard (Alameda)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
EEOC
Small Business Administration

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Overview of State & Local GOV

• **State & local GOVTS** oversee the provision of state services and manage many of the laws that affect state & local citizens.

• State & local GOV attorneys craft policy, draft laws and rules, advise elected and appointed officials, and represent the interests of citizens in court.
**Career Opportunities in State & Local GOV**

**State Attorney General’s Office**: like the US DOJ – the state’s largest public law firm – represents state in litigation – in state and federal courts in furtherance of state GOV policies.
- Also provides legal advice to state officials & agencies

**State Agencies**: While State AG provides nearly all legal services to state agencies, some states (e.g., CA) authorize agencies to employ “in-house counsel.” In addition to providing legal advice to agency officials, lawyers will draft legislation & regulations and represent the agency in admin. proceedings.
Career Opportunities in State & Local GOV

- **Governor’s Office**: Center of action in state GOV; lawyers work as legal counsel or general staff – reviewing & drafting legislation, policy, executive orders & opinions.

- **State Legislature**: Legislators hire attorneys as professional legislative staffers; depends upon full-time or part-time.

- **City Law Departments**: City lawyers tend to practice in areas such as tax assessment & collection, labor, eminent domain, historical preservation, real estate and voting law. City Law departments provide legal counsel to city officials & represent the city in litigation.
Common 1L FED GOV Internships

In 2011, 21% of all 1Ls did GOV internships.

U.S. Dept. of Justice
U.S. Attorneys Office
Volunteer Legal Internship Program (1K+ interns)

Other Federal Agencies
U.S. Dept. of Labor
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC)
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
Common IL State & Local GOV Internships

• California Attorney General’s Office (150)

• San Francisco City Attorney’s Office (35)

• County DA and PD Offices

• CA Energy Commission & PUC
Key December 1st GOV Application Deadlines

U.S. Attorney’s Offices

California Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice (varies by Division & Section)

Federal Government Agencies with rolling deadlines
Public Interest Legal Internships

- **Direct legal services**
  Client contact, basic needs

- **Impact litigation**
  Systemic change using the courts

- **Policy**
  Systemic change using non-litigation strategies

- **Private public interest law firms**
  Private businesses with public interest goals/mission

- **International public interest (human rights, etc.)**
  Very diverse, includes economic development, rule of law, etc.

- **Criminal law**
  DAs/PDs, appellate, policy
Common IL Employers

Direct Legal Services
East Bay Community Law Center
Bay Area Legal Aid
Legal Services for Children
Centro Legal de La Raza
Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center

Impact Litigation
ACLU (National Office, ACLU of NorCal)
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, SF
Public Advocates
Disability Rights Advocates
Equal Rights Advocates
Brennan Center (NYU)
Common 1L Employers

Policy
Pew Charitable Trusts
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
Brennan Center
Burns Institute

Private Public Interest Law Firms
Lewis Fienberg (employment law)
Lieff Cabraser (consumer protection, other)
Rosen Bien & Galvan (civil rights, other)
Common IL Employers

International Public Interest/Human Rights
- International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia/Rwanda
- Earthrights International
- Asylum Access
- Human Rights Watch
- Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts in Cambodia (OSJI)
- Center For Justice and Accountability (SF)
- Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL) (DC, Costa Rica)

Criminal Law
- San Francisco Public Defender/District Attorney
- Office of the State Public Defender/CA Attorney General
- California Appellate Project
- Vera Institute for Justice
- Drug Policy Alliance
IL Public Interest/GOV Summer Job Search: CONSIDERATIONS

- **Substantive areas of law to explore**
- **Skills to develop**
  - client contact
  - litigation skills: legal and trial strategy/legal writing & research
  - community organizing
  - oral advocacy and negotiation
- **Other factors**
  - geographic location
  - established intern training program
  - potential mentor, fellowship sponsor or future employer
1L Public Interest/GOV Summer Job Search: RESOURCES

PSLawNet.org, Idealist.org, Opportunityknocks.org
b-Line
  Password protected job board, research employers, read student evaluations

GOV Handbook

Field Placement Page

2Ls and 3Ls
  Student PIPS Career Fair: Wed Nov 16, 3-5, Donor Lobby

Practitioners at Boalt
  Faculty, student group programs, centers, clinics & CDO

“For 1Ls”: placements list (‘08–’10)
IL Public Interest/GOV Summer Job Search: APPLICATION MATERIALS

• **Most require a *customized* cover letter, resume, and list of three references.**

• **Resume should be tightly written -- acceptable to go over one page *if necessary*. Include community service under the “Experience” section.**

• **Writing sample**

• **Transcript**

• **References – how to identify**
Timeline: NOVEMBER

• Consider how you want to spend your summer.
  • What are your interests?
  • Is there a practice area you want to explore?
  • What skills do you want to develop?

• Orient yourselves to organizations and opportunities.

• Talk with classmates. Attend the Student-to-Student Career Fair.

• Begin preparing resumes and customized cover letters.

• Make appointment with CDO Attorney-Counselor.

• Sign up for the PIPS Mentor Program when open.

• Attend PI/PS Day Orientation (11/22)
Timeline: DECEMBER

• Begin applying to potential employers:
  • Respond to posted opportunities
  • Prioritize top choices & early deadlines
  • 2nd wave after finals & over break

• Track your submissions & follow up if no word 2 weeks later

• Prepare materials for PIPS Day.
Timeline: SPRING SEMESTER

• Continue *(or begin)* sending out materials to employers.

• Assess where you are. Another wave of applications? Meet with a CDO Counselor?

• Attend February PI/PS Day at UC Hastings.
Summer Funding:
BERKELEY LAW SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

• $4,000 guaranteed/$5,000 cap
• 25 pro bono hours
  • SLPS, clinics, BLF, fundraising for summer fellowships of other student groups, student-initiated (upon approval, no gov)
  • Track on website
• Secured public interest/public sector placement (no judicial externships)
• If using work-study, $6,000 cap
• Apply in late March/early April
Summer Funding:
STUDENT GROUP/CAMPUS FELLOWSHIPS

• BLF
• Queer Caucus
• ELQ
• APALSA
• Boalt Hall Women’s Association
• Boalt.Org
• Human Rights Center
Summer Funding:
EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES

• PSLawNet: Career Center/ Financing your Summer Public Interest Work/Summer Funding Resources

• CDO Publications (on website):
  • Summer Funding for Public Interest Work
  • Summer Funding for Human Rts. Work
Upcoming CDO Public Interest/GOV Programs

November 3: Public Interest & Government Externships Fair

November 8: Human Rights Fellowship Information Session

November 16: Student to Student PI/PS Career Fair

November 18: Student Visit to Public Advocates & LCCR (RSVP req’d)

November 22: PI/PS Day Orientation
Contact Us

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!