

2Ls: Your Post- Graduate PIPS Job Search

February 11, 2025

What will we cover today?

1. Self Assessment
 2. PIPS Post-grad Job Opportunities
 3. Timing of Job Search
 4. Next Steps
 5. Interview Programs
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Your Post-Grad PIPS Job Search



Develop a **tailored job search strategy**. PIPS job searches tend to be individualized.



Meet with the CDO to discuss your strategy and get support.



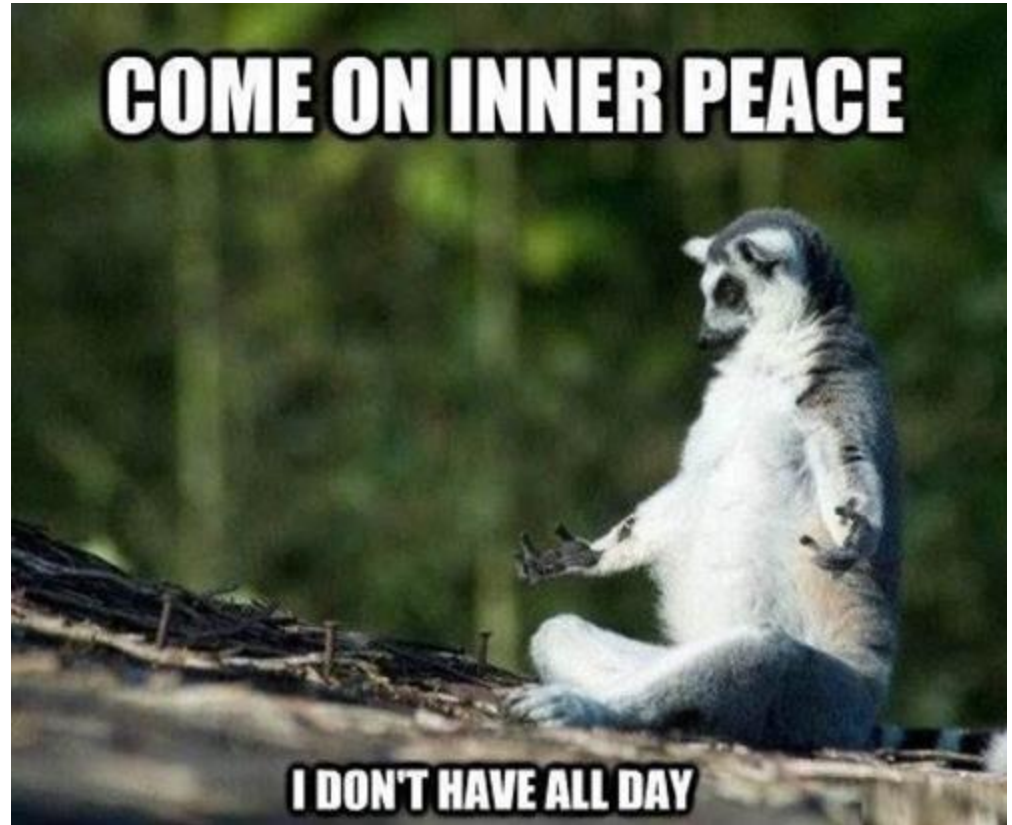
Cast a **wide search net**. Consider your skills, interests, and professional networks.



Put your **best foot forward**. Highlight your skills, commitment, and experience in your application materials.

**3L PIPS Job
Search:**

**Persistence
and
Patience**



Self-Assessment

- What am I interested in?
- When have I felt most successful?
- What experiences energize me?
- What experiences drain me?
- What are my future goals (in stages)?
- How can I get there?



Self Assessment Tools

PIPS

Post-Grad Job Opportunities

1. Judicial Clerkships
 2. Government
 3. Public Defender Office Hiring
 4. Project-Based Fellowships
 5. Organizational Fellowships
 6. Staff Attorney positions
 7. Private Public Interest Firms
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Where Are They Working? (PIPS)

- Homeless Action Center
- Legal Services of Northern California
- Eviction Defense Collaborative
- Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Alliance for Justice
- Southern Environmental Law Center
- Urban Habitat
- East Bay Community Law Center
- Oasis Legal Services
- Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
- Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- Immigration Center for Women and Children

.....and more!!

Judicial Clerkships

Many levels and types of clerkships!

Timing

- Many judges will hire starting this spring/summer for clerkships to start in fall 2026
- Alaska state courts – early 3L fall
- San Francisco and Los Angeles Superior Court – around winter break of 3L



Government Opportunities

- Opportunities available through:
 - Government Honors Programs (federal and state level)
 - Fall OCI
 - Presidential Management Fellows (PMF)
 - Government Fellowships (including local government!)
- Network with alums – ask the CDO for potential connections.
- Join the CDO's **PIPS Google Group**.
- Use the **Government Internship and Honors Arizona Handbook**
(Password: BlueandGold4ever)

Public Defender Offices

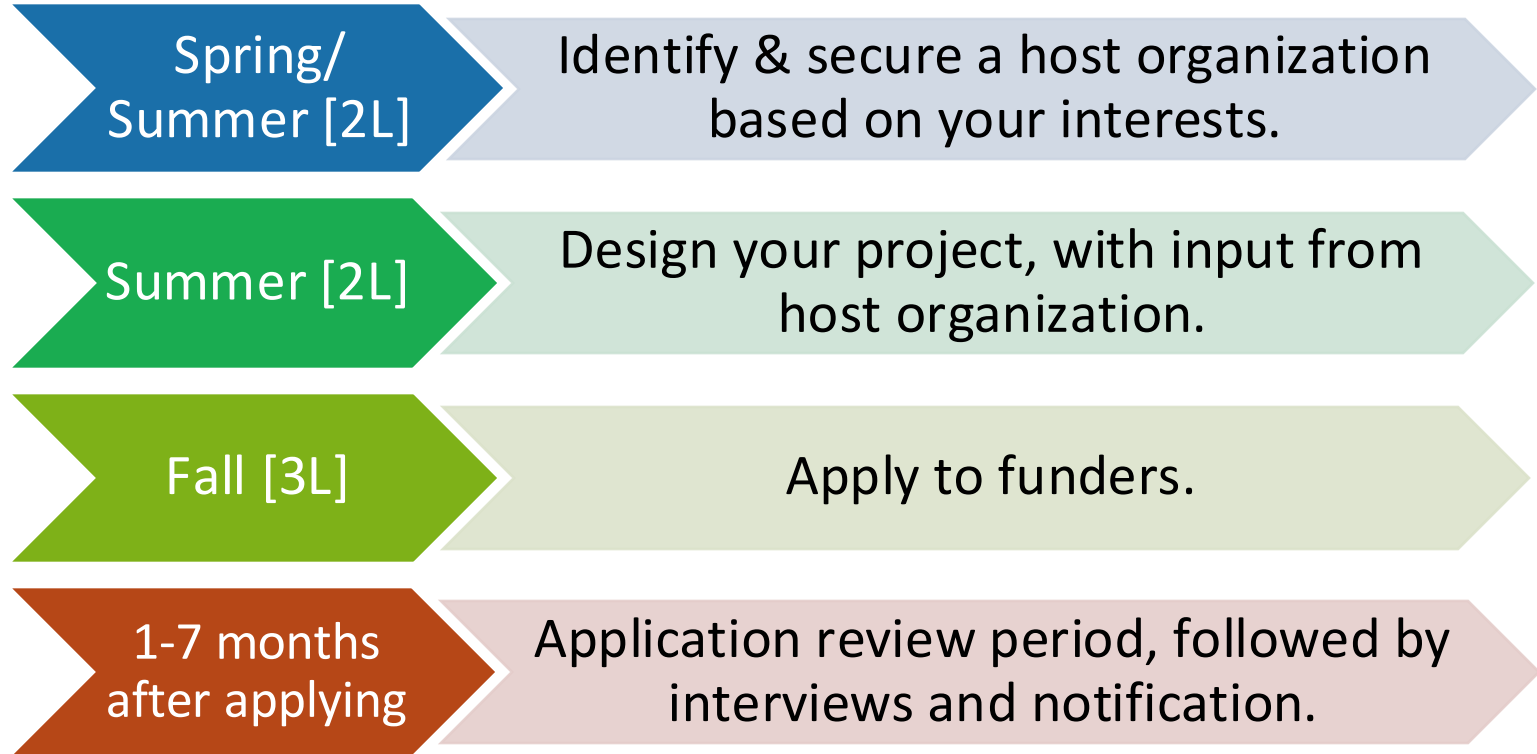
- Post-bar law clerk positions (time limited) vs. attorney positions
- Hire throughout Fall semester.
- Participate in **Fall OCI** and **Equal Justice Works Career Fair**.
- 3L students may want to consider Spring externship to gain more experience & contacts.
- Geographically flexible? Talk to the CDO!

Project-Based Fellowships

- Funded by an outside entity. You write the grant with support from your host org.
- Examples: Equal Justice Works, Skadden, Justice Catalyst, Soros Justice Fellowship, Berkeley Law Foundation, and Borchard Fellowship
- Join the CDO's **PIPS Google Group**. Talk with the CDO!

Highly competitive, but Berkeley Law grads have a strong track record of success!

Project-Based Fellowships: Process



Organizational Fellowships

- Usually **time-limited** (1-2 years), but can result in permanent offers.
- Include nonprofit organizations, Plaintiff-side/private public interest firms, and academic.
- Usually **announced throughout the Fall**, with applications due as early as August through December.
- Examples:
 - Immigrant Justice Corps; ACLU Norcal; Inner City Law Center housing fellowships; NRDC (Nonprofit)
 - Georgetown – Prettyman; Columbia – Climate Change (Academic)
 - Goldstein Borgen Dardarian & Ho; Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger (Firms)

Staff Attorney Positions

- Some public interest organizations (especially in direct services) will consider 3Ls for entry-level staff attorney positions.
- Some organizations recruit **in fall (to begin the following Fall)**. Others will consider from **mid-spring through late summer**.
- Usually funding/vacancy based.
- Examples: LSNC, HAC, EDC, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, have all hired 3Ls in the past.

Plaintiff-side Firms

- Hire on as-needed basis for entry-level positions & through fellowships.
- Develop a direct application strategy.
- Networking is very important! Come to **Plaintiff-side Career Fair** at Berkeley Law on February 19.
- There are usually some entry-level post-grad positions available with employers participating in Berkeley Law's Fall OCI Program.

Bottom Line

There are many ways to land a PIPS job.

Timing of Job Search

- Hiring **begins in the spring/summer** for many clerkships.
- Hiring **begins in the late summer/fall** for government honors programs, many organization-based fellowships, Plaintiff-side firms, and most public defender offices.
- Some opportunities open up in the winter and spring as well.



Job Search Steps to Take Now

- Attend **upcoming CDO programs** to learn more about opportunities & application processes.
- Familiarize yourself with **PIPS job search resources** (b-Line, PSJD.org, LinkedIn, Idealist, Arizona Guide for government opportunities, etc.)
- **NETWORK!** The CDO can help to put you in touch with PIPS alums.
- Continue building your public interest credentials.

Join CDO's PIPS Class of 2026 Google Group!



Job Search Steps to take over Summer & Fall

- **Meet with a CDO counselor.**
- Finalize your **application materials**. Send your resume and a cover letter to a CDO counselor for review.
- Review employers with **early Fall deadlines**. Apply!
- Participate in Berkeley Law's **Fall OCI Program** and the **EJW Career Fair**. Some organizations and agencies interview 3Ls through these programs.

Preview of Interview Programs in Summer & Fall

Fall OCI	Equal Justice Works (EJW) Career Fair
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Apply in August, interviews happen in September (virtual)● Public interest organizations, government agencies, public defense offices, and small/mid-size law firm (including Plaintiff-side firms).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Apply by September, interviews happen around October. Includes “table talk” component.● All-virtual, run by EJW (national org).● Public interest and government agencies, including public defense offices.

**And in Spring
(3L year):**

- PIPS DAY
- Winter OCI

Upcoming CDO Programs for 2Ls!

- **FEB 18** Bankruptcy Courts and Careers
- **FEB 19** Plaintiff-Side Firm Career Fair (CDO/PLA)
- **FEB 25** “How I Got My Clerkship” Panel with 3Ls
- **MARCH 4** Government Careers Panel
- **APRIL 1** Speed Clerking with 3L clerks
- **APRIL 15** Post-Graduate Fellowship Action Plan

Learn about LRAP/PSLF

- **LRAP and PSLF** are important resources for students considering postgraduate PIPS jobs.
 - LRAP can reduce or eliminate your out-of-pocket loan expenses.
 - PSLF can forgive your entire student loan balance after 10 years of public service work. *(And it's not going to go away for anyone who's already a loan borrower.)*
- LRAP info sessions every semester—next one is **March 18**.
- Make an appointment with Financial Aid to review your personal situation.
 - berkeleylawfinaid.as.me/LRAP

Questions?

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