

UC Berkeley Law  
Career Development Office

# Introduction: 2L PIPS Summer Job Search

# Goals of Program

- Understand how 2L summer fits into the post-graduate job search.
- Understand hiring timeline and processes.
- Learn how to prepare strong application materials.
- Learn about resources and strategies for finding opportunities.
- Learn about summer funding opportunities.

# Personal Assessment

*What **skills, experiences, and connections** do I want to develop that can help support me in my post-grad job search and goals?*

# Public Defense and 2L Summer

- Offices that hire **entry level positions** (ex. Colorado PD, King County PD, BxD, BDS) vs. **“postbar” positions** (ex. Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles)
- A strong 2L internship with a PD office can boost competitiveness for post-bar or entry-level roles, offering:
  - Great in court and client experience
  - Connections and insight into the office and local system
- **But:** working in the same office as a 2L is helpful, not required—most PD offices consider applicants without prior in-office experience.

# Government and 2L Summer

- Only a few agencies hire from 2L summer (Ex. SD City Attorney, NYC Law Dept)
- Most entry-level public sector hiring happens through Government Honors Programs (local, state & federal agencies)
- You don't need a government 2L internship to land an Honors job (nonprofit experience is also competitive). A government 2L internship does NOT guarantee a post-grad Honors position.
- **BUT:** Experience in government (during 1L or 2L summer) can help build skills, connections, insight, and can strengthen your public service narrative.

# Nonprofits and 2L Summer

Most entry-level nonprofit legal jobs for 3Ls/new grads are **post-graduate fellowships** (typically 1–2 years, paid, and focused on skill development + impact).

## Organizational Fellowships

- Fully funded by the employer.
- Apply like a regular job (resume, cover letter, writing sample, references, sometimes essays, etc.).

## Project-Based Fellowships

- Hosted by a nonprofit but funded by external funders (e.g., Equal Justice Works, Skadden, Justice Catalyst).
- Require you to submit project proposal to funder addressing a pressing legal need or underserved community.

# Examples of Project-Based Fellowships



## Molly Lao

University of California, Berkeley School of Law

### Fellowship

Legal Aid at Work  
San Francisco, CA

Will establish a medical-legal-social services partnership with a local one-stop resource and community health center, to provide employment representation for formerly incarcerated individuals with disabilities in Fresno.


## DARBY AONO

 **Hosted by** UnCommon Law

 **Sponsored by** Covington & Burling LLP, The Clorox Company Foundation

 **Service location** Oakland, California

 **Law school** University of California, Berkeley School of Law

 **Issue area** Criminal Justice Reform, Elder Abuse

 **Fellowship class year** 2022



# Tips for 1Ls interested in Project-Based Fellowships

- **Develop relationships with potential host organizations** - through summer internships, field placements, pro bono, and volunteering.
- **Develop relationships with mentors** - both in and out of the law school!
- - and talk with people on the ground to make sure that the problem you've identified is actually a problem (e.g., working in the area of law you want to practice, working in the city where you want to do your project, or working with that population)

# Upcoming programs:

***Your Post-Graduate Fellowship Action Plan*** - Wednesday, April 8,  
12:50 - 2:00 pm (Room 170)

***Skadden Fellowships Info Session with Executive Director Charlie Gillig*** - Wednesday, April 8, 12:50 - 2:00 pm (Room 100)

# Plaintiff-side and 2L Summer

- Return offers for post-grad hiring are more likely than in nonprofit/government agencies
- Review resources in 12Twenty - Plaintiff Law Association's Database
- Join PLA Newsletter
- Not eligible for PSLF after graduation (talk with Financial Aid Office because may still be eligible for LRAP)
- Talk with peers on Who Works Where list

# Job Search Timeline

2Ls in July / August:



# Job Search Timeline

- Begin over summer/early Fall. May run through Spring.
- PD offices usually begin recruitment as early as August.
- Some DA offices recruit earlier - in June/July (usually direct applications).
- Paid government positions tend to hire earlier, though unpaid positions open throughout fall and early Spring.
  - Ex. Paid summer internships with U.S. DOJ - hiring deadline usually early September
- Plaintiff-side firms tend to hire earlier in summer/early Fall - with some hiring now!

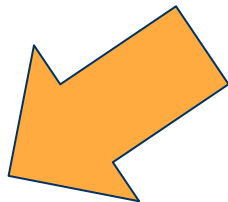
# How to Find/Monitor Direct Applications

- Set up job alerts in **12Twenty** and **Psjd.org**
- **Arizona Guide** (for government opportunities)
- Talk with your peers - review **Who Works Where** list
- Come **talk with CDO!**

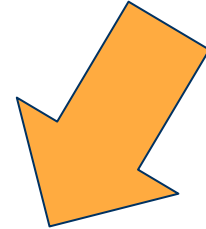
- Home
- Profile
- Application Materials
- Target Employers
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- Contacts
- Tasks
- Activity Stream
- Job Listings ∨
- Job Listings
- Search**
- Applied
- Appointments >
- My Calendar
- Events >

# How to do a job search in 12Twenty

Go to **JOB LISTINGS**  
Select **SEARCH**



# How to do a job search in 12Twenty



UC Berkeley Law  
Career Development Office

Home  
Profile  
Application Materials  
Target Employers  
Employers  
Contacts  
Tasks  
Activity Stream  
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## Job Listings

All Job Listings 12twenty Job Listings

Q Employer, Job Title, or Keyword

Job Status: Approved, Application Open Employer Job Title City (Job Posting) Type of Job + More Filters

IF Posting Date

Job	Application Status
<b>Legal Summer Intern JD Rising 2L (Intern)</b> (Potential for 2L and Post-grad p... Cisco Systems, Inc. San Jose - CA Summer 2026 Internship 18 hours ago Apply Immediately	OPEN Not Applied
<b>Legal Intern</b> Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law Flexible/Negotiable Academic-Year Internship, Summer 2026 Internship 1 day ago Apply Immediately	APPLICATION OPEN Not Applied
<b>Intern, 2026 Summer Legal</b>	

### Student Groups

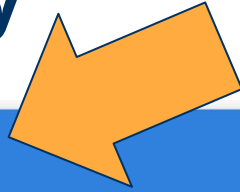
Include

-- Select a Value --

Q Search Student Groups filter options

- Select all
- 1L
- 2L
- 3L
- Alum
- LLM

# How to set up weekly/daily job alerts in 12Twenty



🔔 Save Search or Turn On Email Alerts

^ My Saved Searches & Alerts

## Save Search

Saved Search Name\*

Test Search - Summer 2026 |Jobs

Notify me via email when there are new results

Weekly  Daily  Disabled

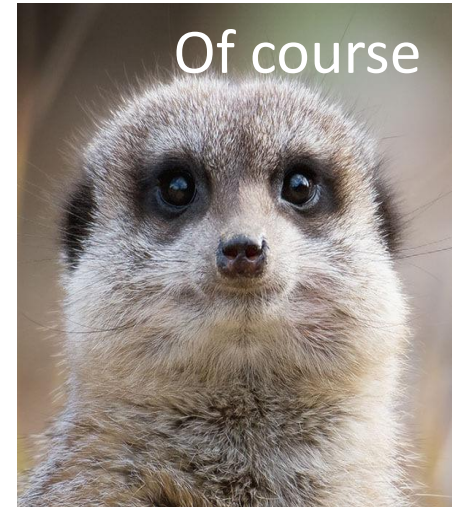
Cancel

OK

# Organized Interview Programs

- **Berkeley Law's OCI** - applications usually due over summer
- **Equal Justice Works Career Fair** - applications usually due in Fall
- **NorCal PIPS Day** - applications usually due over winter break.
- **Berkeley Law's PIPS Career Fair** - usually in October - not an interview program, but great for learning about orgs!

# Your Application Materials



**Name your file: Last, First - Employer Name**

# Your Application Materials

- No typos, formatting errors, or inconsistencies.
- Include any new law school activities or journals, including your 1L summer job.
- Tailor cover letters to employers you are applying to
  - Body paragraphs focused on your interest/commitment to the work and your transferable skills.
  - Clear topic sentences

# Summer Funding

- More opportunities for 2Ls for paid/compensated summer PIPS work
- 2Ls tend to be more competitive for externally funded summer fellowships. See CDO webpage **Summer Funding for PI/PS Internships & Judicial Externships** for list.
- Edley Grant
  - 2Ls can receive more funding (up to \$6500) if received Edley grant 1L summer.
  - No need to do another set of pro-bono hours again
  - Apply in Spring when application opens!

# Offers & Acceptances

- If you tell an employer you are accepting an offer verbally - **that is an acceptance**. It does not have to be in writing.
- Even if you are declining an interview or offer, you should **actively respond to the employer** to communicate that you are declining the interview or offer.
- Once you accept a position, **you should decline any further interviews or offers and withdraw your applications with other employers**.
- Be selective and thoughtful about which offer you will accept.

# Join PIPS Group

Class of 2028  
Google Group:



Questions?