

### Program Description

For many years, Columbia Legal Services has represented some of the most marginalized people in our community. We use every legal tool available on their behalf. Our role to serve people and use advocacy that might otherwise not be available makes our work an integral part of the Washington Alliance for Equal Justice. As a proud member of the Alliance, our vision of justice is when people have the necessary tools and opportunity to achieve social and economic justice, a more equitable and inclusive society is possible. Through large-scale litigation, policy reform, and innovative partnerships, our lawyers and staff work in furtherance of our mission. The ideal candidate for any position at Columbia Legal Services will be able to articulate their role in the achievement of that vision.

### Position

We offer internship and externship opportunities for law students throughout the year, on an as-needed basis, with the most capacity in the summer. Externs and Interns are given the opportunity to participate in systemic advocacy on behalf of low-income people by engaging in legal research and writing, policy advocacy, and community outreach and education. We are only able to offer unpaid positions that are self-supported, generally through school credit, work-study, or through fellowships and public interest grants. Examples of the types of cases and projects that CLS advances to cause systemic change in Washington State include:

- Protecting the health and safety of farm workers and their families working in Washington orchards.
- Improving access to and quality of healthcare for prisoners, disabled individuals, seniors, and low-income people from public housing and mobile home communities.
- Working on legislation to improve the situations of thousands of unaccompanied youth and young adults living in homelessness.
- Helping Washington residents assert their rights against large financial institutions when facing foreclosure.

### Qualifications

Law Student applicants must:

- Be committed to advancing systemic advocacy on behalf of low-income communities;
- Have excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively;
- Possess dependable computer skills in word processing and legal research.



### Applications

**Applicants may apply to work with one of five primary practice areas: Basic Human Needs, Children and Youth, Economic Justice, Institutions, and Working Families, and at any of our statewide offices, located in Kennewick, Olympia, Seattle, Wenatchee, and Yakima.** Candidates applying for positions with our Working Families Project and Laurel Rubin Interns must be proficient in Spanish.

If you are interested in a legal internship or externship with Columbia Legal Services, send a cover letter and resume to [jobs@columbialegal.org](mailto:jobs@columbialegal.org) with **Internship or Externship** in the subject line (if e-mailed) to:

Trisa Kern  
Director of Program Administration  
Columbia Legal Services  
101 Yesler Way, Suite 300  
Seattle, WA 98104  
[jobs@columbialegal.org](mailto:jobs@columbialegal.org)

Indicate which listed position you are applying to work with. Deadlines:

<b>Winter/Spring:</b> November 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Summer:</b> February 1 <sup>st</sup> , with priority given to those submitted on or before December 15 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Fall:</b> August 1 <sup>st</sup>

### Program Policy

Columbia Legal Services is committed to a policy of pluralism and equal opportunity in an environment free of barriers and discriminatory practices for its client communities, Board and staff. Pluralism refers to the active promotion of mutual respect, acceptance, teamwork and productivity among people who are diverse in work background, experience, education, race, color, national origin, sex, age, religious preference, marital status, sexual orientation, sensory, mental and physical abilities, veteran status, or any other perceived differences. The resulting diversity is both a source of program strength and a matter of fundamental human fairness. If you need a reasonable accommodation for the application process, contact Sharon Nyland at 206-464-1122 or [jobs@columbialegal.org](mailto:jobs@columbialegal.org).

