

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.

Positions Available

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS PROJECT (Seattle)

Law student interns and externs working with the Basic Human Needs Project will focus on legal research and writing related to safeguarding essential benefits and rights for all low-income people. This intern will undertake larger projects and individual case work, likely including factual investigation, legal research, drafting memos and pleadings, client outreach, and litigation support. Legal topics may include the basic human needs of undocumented persons, and access to food, shelter, health care, and emergency financial assistance.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROJECT (Seattle)

Law student interns working with the Children and Youth Project will focus on policy advocacy, legal research, writing, outreach, and litigation related to children and youth. Our advocacy focuses on foster care, homelessness, education, juvenile justice, race equity, and health care. Strong research and writing skills as well as experience working with children or youth are preferred.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECT (Seattle)

Law student interns or externs working with the Economic Justice Project will assist in litigation and policy advocacy that promotes lasting economic security and opportunity for marginalized communities. The work may focus on charity care rights, unfair debt collection practices, or housing stability. Duties will likely include legal research, investigating, and assisting with discovery and motions. Desired qualities include proficiency with legal research and writing consistent with experience.

INSTITUTIONS PROJECT (Seattle)

The Institutions Project (IP) is seeking one law student intern or extern to assist with IP's litigation and policy advocacy. Strong research and writing skills as well as an interest in the criminal justice system are preferred. Institutions Project priorities include treatment of youth in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, conditions of confinement in Washington's jails and prisons, and legal assistance for people reentering the community following incarceration.



Paid Internship Opportunities (2)

PETER GREENFIELD INTERNSHIP (Seattle)

This 10-week, full-time, paid summer internship is funded by the Elder Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association and one of the three Washington law schools on a rotating basis. For 2018, this position is only available to UW law students. The Peter Greenfield Senior Advocacy Internship is intended as a way to increase awareness of, and interest in, the practice of elder law on behalf of low-income clients and to support systemic reform that was the hallmark of the work of Peter Greenfield (a former CLS attorney).

WORKING FAMILIES PROJECT GROUP - LAUREL RUBIN FARMWORKER JUSTICE INTERNS (Yakima, Wenatchee)

The Laurel Rubin Farm Worker Justice interns are funded positions - \$6,000 stipend. Interns must speak Spanish. Interns will support litigation and policy efforts to improve wages and work conditions in concert with farmworker groups engaged in self-organizing, and to address systemic civil rights issues for immigrants in farmworker communities. Interns will engage in investigation, legal research and writing and community outreach, primarily to labor camps.

Application Process

Positions are open until filled. We will accept applications until **February 15th**. Other than the two paid internships indicated above, we are able to offer only unpaid positions that are self-supported, generally through school credit, work-study, or through fellowships and public interest grants. 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.

If you are interested in one of these positions, send a cover letter, resume, a short writing sample and the completed [Equity Statement](#) to jobs@columbialegal.org or to:

Michelle Majors - Director of Program Administration
Columbia Legal Services
101 Yesler Way, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98104

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 Michelle Majors at jobs@columbialegal.org.

Indicate to which position(s) you are applying in the body of your message.

Basic Human Needs Project • Children and Youth Project • Institutions Project • Working Families Project



THE ALLIANCE
for Equal Justice

Kennewick
418 – F North Kellogg
Kennewick, WA 99336
(888) 201-9735

Olympia
711 Capitol Way S, #304
Olympia, WA 98501
(800) 260-6260

Seattle
101 Yesler Way, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98104
(800) 542-0794

Wenatchee
300 Okanogan Ave, Suite 2A
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(800) 572-9615

Yakima
600 Larson Building
6 South Second Street
Yakima, WA 98901
(800) 631-1323



**Columbia Legal Services
Equity Statement**

Please choose and answer one (1) of the following statements:

Prompt #1: We would like to know more about your experience with equity, race and social justice.

Please tell us about your experience engaging and working with diverse communities – particularly in the context of your professional, volunteer, or civic work. Please also address efforts you have made or been involved with to foster equity competence and understanding.

Prompt #2: What efforts have you made or been involved with to foster equity competence and understanding? What have you done to further your knowledge about equity? Have you included equity in your professional development? How have you demonstrated what you have learned?