



Externship & Internship Opportunities

Kennewick, Olympia, Seattle,
Wenatchee, Yakima

columbialegal.org

Who We Are

Columbia Legal Services is a legal advocacy organization that advances social, economic, and racial equity for people living in poverty. We hold government agencies, institutions, and other actors accountable to address the root causes of racism and their manifestation in unfair treatment and inequitable access to resources, power, and opportunities based on race. We focus on dismantling the mass incarceration system and mitigating the negative impacts of our broken immigration system. We believe that communities should have a voice in the creation and implementation of the policies, laws, and legal systems that impact them.

We are committed to an environment of mutual respect, collaboration, and equal opportunity for all employees, and strongly encourage applications from people of color, immigrants, people who have been affected by mass incarceration, and other underrepresented and historically marginalized groups. We believe in building and sustaining an organization that is reflective of the communities we serve, and is diverse in work background, experience, education, race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, national origin, or sensory, mental and physical abilities. We believe that the resulting diversity is both a source of program strength and a matter of fundamental human fairness.

Position Summary

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.

To Apply

Applicants may apply to work with one of two primary practice areas: Mass Incarceration and Immigration, and at any of our statewide offices, located in Kennewick, Olympia, Seattle, Wenatchee, and Yakima.

Candidates applying for positions with an emphasis on Immigration must be proficient in Spanish.

If you are interested in a legal internship or externship with Columbia Legal Services, send a cover letter, resume, and [Equity Statement](#) to careers@columbialegal.org with Internship or Externship in the subject line to:

Columbia Legal Services
101 Yesler Way, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98104
careers@columbialegal.org

Please indicate which practice area and location you are applying to work in.

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