



JOB DESCRIPTION – LEGAL INTERN SUMMER 2017

The American Civil Liberties Union is the largest and oldest organization in the United States dedicated to protecting the civil liberties of all people in this nation through litigation, public education, advocacy, and organizing. The ACLU litigates impact cases addressing a wide range of constitutional issues, including free speech, racial justice, LGBT rights, religious freedom, police misconduct, reproductive freedom, voting rights, sex discrimination, immigrants' rights, prisoners' rights, privacy, and drug policy. The ACLU of Michigan, with 23 staff, is one of the state's leading civil rights organizations.

Summer legal interns with the ACLU of Michigan have a unique opportunity to work on cutting-edge civil liberties and civil rights cases. In recent years, summer legal interns participated in developing cases under the Fair Housing Act, protecting the rights of homeless persons, education, and many other issues. In addition to a vibrant and innovative caseload, the ACLU of Michigan offers legal interns a rewarding summer experience, including opportunities to attend court hearings, social activities, supervision and mentorship.

Some of our recent litigation includes:

- a class action lawsuit under the Fair Housing Act challenging tax foreclosures in Detroit because of their disparate impact on people of color
- a federal lawsuit to obtain safe drinking water for the people of Flint
- a U.S. Supreme Court case on behalf of a five-year-old girl with cerebral palsy who was not allowed to bring her service dog to school
- a class action on the "right to read" to reform the education system in Highland Park
- a successful challenge to Michigan's policy of not allowing transgender individuals to change the sex designation on their driver's license
- a successful lawsuit to obtain full marriage recognition and equality for same-sex couples lawfully married in Michigan
- an Eighth Amendment challenge to Michigan's practice of sentencing children to life in prison without the possibility of parole
- a successful immigrants' rights lawsuit to obtain driver's licenses for DREAMers
- a successful challenge to Michigan's anti-begging law
- a suit against the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for issuing religious directives that prohibit Catholic hospitals from providing medically necessary treatment to pregnant women who are miscarrying

Please see our website for more information on our current and past case dockets:
<http://www.aclumich.org/courts/legal-dockets>.

INTERNSHIP OVERVIEW

Responsibilities: Law students work on many aspects of potential and ongoing cases, such as drafting memoranda addressing the merits of a case, meeting with and interviewing plaintiffs and witnesses, and drafting complaints and briefs. Students may also be asked to analyze the constitutionality of pending legislation or help with discovery.

Internship Locations: Internships are available at our Detroit headquarters, our West Michigan Regional Office in Grand Rapids, and our Lansing legislative office for interns with a particular interest in legislative and policy work. In your cover letter, please indicate whether you have a geographic preference.

Qualifications:

- Must have finished first year of law school
- Very strong research, writing and communication skills
- A demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and civil rights issues
- Students who have studied constitutional law are preferred

Supervision: Legal interns will be supervised by the legal director, deputy legal director, staff attorneys, and legal fellows. They may also be asked to assist a cooperating attorney on a pending case or to work with the executive director or legislative director.

Credit/Fellowships: Our summer legal internship requires a 10 to 12 week commitment. This is an unpaid internship. Students are highly encouraged to seek public interest fellowship funds. Arrangements can also be made with the student's law school for work/study stipends or course credit.

Applications: Applications are considered on a rolling basis, so interested students should apply as early as possible, and in any case no later than January 31, 2017. Please email a cover letter, resume and writing sample to:

Dan Korobkin, Deputy Legal Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
2966 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 578-6824
dkorobkin@aclumich.org

To learn more about the ACLU, go to www.aclumich.org or www.aclu.org. The ACLU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.