



JOB DESCRIPTION – LEGAL INTERN SUMMER 2018

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 immigrants' rights, racial justice, LGBT rights, free speech, religious freedom, police misconduct, reproductive freedom, voting rights, sex discrimination, prisoners' rights, and privacy. The ACLU of Michigan, with 28 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, responding to the Flint water crisis, immigration, 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 to prevent the Trump administration from deporting Iraqis without giving them an opportunity to challenge their removal orders in immigration court
- a class action lawsuit under the Fair Housing Act challenging tax foreclosures in Detroit because of their disparate impact on people of color
- 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 federal lawsuit to obtain safe drinking water for the people of Flint
- a class action to reform special education in Flint after the entire population was exposed to lead
- a challenge to Michigan's policy of not allowing transgender individuals to change the sex designation on their driver's license
- a 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 challenge to Michigan's anti-begging law

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 policy counsel.

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, 2018. Please email a cover letter, resume and writing sample to:

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