

2008-2009

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Commission on Homelessness & Poverty

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ABA John J. Curtin, Jr. Justice Fund

2009 Summer Legal Internship Program

The Curtin Justice Fund Legal Internship Program is seeking motivated law student interns to apply for stipends available for the Summer 2009 Program. These students should have a position offered, contingent on funding, from a qualified organization.

INTERNSHIP:

The Curtin Justice Fund Legal Internship Program is managed jointly by the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty and the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants. The Program will pay a \$2,500 stipend to three law school students who spend the summer months working for a bar association or legal services program designed to prevent homelessness or assist homeless or indigent clients or their advocates. The Legal Internship Program will provide much-needed legal assistance to organizations serving the under-represented and give students direct experience in a public interest forum. Through this, it aims both to help homeless clients and to encourage careers in the law that further the goals of social justice.

BACKGROUND:

The John J. Curtin, Jr. Justice Fund, a permanent endowment in the American Bar Association Fund for Justice and Education, was created to honor Jack Curtin, ABA President from 1990-91. In acknowledgment of his outstanding achievements, as well as the affection ABA members and staff have for Jack, his colleagues in the Association collected over \$100,000 within a year of his leaving office to establish the fund. Jack's long-standing dedication to issues of social justice and civil rights led to approval by the ABA Board of Governors to use the income from the Justice Fund to provide stipends to law students working to help homeless and indigent people.

INTERN REQUIREMENTS:

The ideal intern will have a demonstrated interest in public interest law and experience working with poor people or on issues affecting them. All law students are eligible, and first year law students are encouraged to apply. The intern must commit no less than eight continuous weeks between May 1 and October 1 to the program of his or her choice. Applicants must submit the attached application to the Curtin Internship Program, American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, 740 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

All applications must be received by Monday, March 23, 2009. We welcome early submissions.

Program Requirements:

Qualified organizations include bar association programs, legal services programs and nonprofit organizations which have programs dedicated to meeting the legal needs and concerns of homeless and indigent people and their advocates. To be considered, programs must have been operational for at least one year and must have an attorney on staff or easily available to supervise the intern.

A lawyer in the program (either a volunteer or paid attorney) must supervise the intern, and the program must assure the ABA that it will give the intern substantive law experiences with clients and with preparing legal documents and so forth.

Application Process:

Each applicant shall submit a cover letter, resume, application form (attached; also available at <http://www.abanet.org/homeless/curtin.shtml>) and a prospective program's supporting statement (attached). Please be specific about the issues on which you plan to focus and what you hope to accomplish.

Evaluation Process:

Both the intern and the program will be expected to submit to the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty and the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants reports on the summer internship experience. These evaluations are due within four weeks of the conclusion of the internship or by October 1, 2009, at the latest. The intern should assess the quality of the supervision received, describe whether the written work assigned was challenging, discuss the opportunities to work with clients, and include a summary of what the student learned from the experience. The program supervisor should describe the student's contributions to the program and provide feedback as to what skills and abilities the Curtin Justice Fund Legal Internship Program should look for in future interns.

For More Information:

Please contact the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty at (202) 662-1694 or via e-mail at homeless@abanet.org, or visit the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty's Web site at <http://www.abanet.org/homeless/curtin.shtml> to obtain an application.

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
JOHN J. CURTIN, JR. JUSTICE FUND
LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

2009 INTERN APPLICATION

Instructions

Clearly print or type the application. Answer Part Two on a separate piece of paper. Please attach a resume and cover letter to your application. The legal services organization where you will intern must complete the 2009 Program Supporting Statement portion of the application; submit these materials along with your application. If your application is incomplete, it will not be considered.

Submit the application to the John J. Curtin, Jr. Internship Program, ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, 740 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. It must be received by Monday, March 23, 2009 (unless you receive an extension from the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty). We welcome early submissions.

Part One

Name _____

Current Address _____

Telephone number(s) _____

E-mail _____

Permanent address and telephone number _____

Law School _____

Year _____

GPA, honors _____

For which bar or legal services program are you applying? _____

How did you hear about the John J. Curtin, Jr. Justice Fund Summer Internship Program?

Part Two

Please answer these essay questions clearly and concisely, limiting your responses to a total of five typed pages, double-spaced.

1. What kinds of legal, political, educational, and work experience have you had which are relevant or directly applicable to legal services for homeless and/or impoverished people?
2. What are your reasons for applying for this internship and your reasons for selecting the legal services program you did? Please include in your response examples of what you expect to gain from the internship as well as how the internship may help you attain your future professional goals.
3. Please describe your job responsibilities and projects for the summer internship.

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LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

2009 PROGRAM SUPPORTING STATEMENT
(To be completed by the supervising attorney)

NOTE: IF THIS STATEMENT IS SUBMITTED SEPARATELY, IT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009 (unless you receive an extension from the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty).

Part One

Name of organization _____

Address _____

Telephone number(s) _____

Fax number(s) _____

E-mail address _____

Name of director _____

Name and title of person who will be supervising intern _____

Part Two

Please attach a brief description of the organization, including its mission, details about the issues it addresses, and information about the staff and location of the offices. Also, please thoroughly describe the project(s) on which the intern will be working, highlighting how the intern's activities will be of importance in furthering your organization's goals.