



## **Public Interest & Government Summer Internship Opportunities in North Carolina**

### IOLTA

Every year, five students from each North Carolina law school are awarded funding for a public interest summer internship. The funding is drawn from the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts program (IOLTA), a non-profit organization created by the North Carolina Bar. Students can obtain a list of public interest employers approved for the IOLTA program from the Career Center or the Public Interest & Pro Bono Office during the Spring Semester. More information about IOLTA grants and the selection process for Duke Law students is available from the [Public Interest & Pro Bono Office](#).

### Center for Community Self-Help

The nonprofit Center for Community Self-Help and its financing affiliates, Self-Help Credit Union and Self-Help Ventures Fund, comprise one of the nation's leading community development financial institutions (CDFIs). The mission of Self-Help is to create ownership and economic opportunities for minorities, women, rural residents, and low-wealth families.

### Fair Trial Initiative

The Fair Trial Initiative directly confronts the crisis of incompetent trial counsel for indigent defendants facing the death penalty. The Initiative: (1) funds fellowships for recent law graduates to work with underfunded trial counsel in capital cases, (2) funds fellowships for professionals to become mitigation specialists (3) provides pro bono opportunities for associates at law firms to work on capital trials, and (4) provides summer internships for law students to do a variety of trial-related death penalty work.

### Legal Aid of North Carolina

Summer internships with Legal Aid of North Carolina offer unique situations through which one might better understand the special legal issues facing people who live in poverty and low-income communities. In turn, the summer interns provide valuable and necessary service to the Legal Aid of NC offices/projects in which they are placed. Legal Aid of NC typically seeks opportunities for its interns to experience direct client contact, participate in administrative hearings (for those certified), draft pleadings and/or work on a case (under supervision).

### North Carolina District Attorneys and Public Defenders

Students interested in criminal law are able to gain exceptional practical experience through internships with district attorneys and public defenders. If you are seeking a criminal law summer internship, we encourage to directly contact the [District Attorney](#) or [Public Defender](#) in the county or counties of interest.

### North Carolina Department of Justice

The Attorney General's office handles issues that affect every aspect of state government and the lives of North Carolina residents. Serving as a summer intern gives students an opportunity to work alongside some of the state's very best attorneys. In addition, interns will also participate in a variety of activities to give them a perspective on our department's work, such as attending oral arguments in the appellate courts, touring Central Prison and visiting the State Bureau of Investigation crime laboratory. Although the internships are not paid positions, the experience gained is invaluable.

### North Carolina State Government Internship Program

Summer internships for legal residents of North Carolina are offered in virtually all areas of state government through the [North Carolina Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office](#). One hundred paid internships are available for 10 weeks in the summer for undergraduates, graduate students and those in professional school. Law related opportunities are available with the following agencies and branches of government: the NC Indian Land Trust Project, the NC Ridge Law GIS Project, the NC Court of Appeals, the NC Supreme Court, the NC Department of Labor, and the NC Department of the State Treasurer.