

Government and Public Interest Jobs

Sponsored by the Career and Professional Development
Center and the Public Interest and Pro Bono Office

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What is the timing of a public interest job search?

- Varies widely
- Some early fall deadlines: summer government honors programs, large prosecutor and defender programs
- Some hiring is well into the spring

Government and Public Interest Credentials: Your resume and more

- Are there things you should add back in on your resume?
- What can you do during your 2L year to strengthen your resume?
- In some instances, your resume can be longer than 1 page.

Things to add back in ...

- Employment in the public interest prior to law school
 - Americorps?
 - Teach for America?
 - Other?
- Community service in college
 - Mentoring/Big Brothers, Big Sisters?

Strengthen Your Resume

- Pro Bono
- Clinic
- Externship
- Trial Practice
- Volunteering

Build your public interest credentials!

Cover Letters Are KEY!

- In cover letters, and in interviews, it is **CRITICAL** that you demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to what the organization does/it's mission.
- Discuss the skills or traits you have that apply to the work of the organization.

Networking COUNTS!

- Find alums or others who do the type of work you are interested in, and talk to them
- For government jobs, seek out people within the organization to contact about your interest
- Develop networking opportunities from past experiences (pro bono supervisors, Americorps contacts, family friends, etc.)
- Ask us for additional contacts

**Where do you find these
jobs?**

2L Government and Public Interest Job Search Guide

- Available on CPDC website in Summer Toolkit (user: blue; password: devils)



Equal Justice Works Conference

- Oct. 24th – 25th, Washington, D.C.
www.equaljusticeworks.org under Events tab
- Reception the night before, location TBA
- Must register for their Symplicity site and upload a resume
- Deadline has passed to be preselected for interviews but table talk still available

Government Honors Programs

- Summer programs often referred to as SLIP programs (Summer Legal Intern Program)
- The best resource for these is the Government Honors and Internship Handbook (the Arizona Guide)
<http://www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm>
user: cookie password: dough
- See the APPENDIX for deadlines and 2L positions
- ALWAYS also go to the agency website
- Also, search state law websites for state programs

PSLawNet.org

- This site is one of the most comprehensive resources for government and public interest jobs.
- Based on Duke's membership, it is free to all Duke students and alumni.
- It includes job postings and well as contact information for all kinds of organizations for your outreach efforts.
- The Career Central section has phenomenal resources for many types of positions (including a must read Federal Government Employment section)

Idealist.org

- This is one of the best sites for non-profit job postings. You can set it to email all new legal job postings to you on a daily basis.

Don't forget SYMPLICITY and weekly emails from the Career Center!

- Government and non-profit employers contact Duke Law directly to notify us of positions and let us know that they are interested in having Duke students apply. These positions are posted on Symplicity as they come in to the office.

Many of these jobs are
UNPOSTED positions!

An important truth about internships (and jobs) --

- MANY organizations and potential employers do NOT advertise or post positions.
- SOME of these are actively interested in hiring.
- Others, will hire when presented with an interested candidate (especially public interest organizations that cannot pay interns).

Jobs that may not be posted

- Legal Aid
- Public Defender
- District Attorney
- State Attorney General
- City and County Attorney's Offices
- Legislative jobs (state and federal)
- Judicial Clerkships (no funding for most)
- Non-profits that do advocacy work (direct advocacy and legislative), including: shelters, environmental organizations, (domestic and international)

Print Resources available in CPDC, the Pro Bono Office and the Library

- *Serving the Public: A Job Search Guide Volume I – USA*: handbook and directory for law students and lawyers seeking public service work, including government and non-profit organizations. Provides information on funding for public interest summer internships, post-graduate fellowships, federal honors programs, entrepreneurial grants, and judicial clerkships.
- *Serving the Public: A Job Search Guide Volume II – International* : Provides information on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations including the United Nations, opportunities within the United States Government, and international fellowships.
- *Good Works – A Guide to Careers in Social Change*: Provides profiles of professionals with careers in public service and a national directory of public service organizations.
- *Nonprofit Sector Yellow Book* : A who's who in the management of the leading foundations, universities, museums, and other non-profit organizations.

Tips:

- Look in your hometown or the location where you think you want to live following graduation
- Consider all of your personal contacts and reach out to alumni
- Research what the organization does and express interest in their work
- Let them know you are interested in paid and unpaid positions
- Highlight any related work you have done (or public interest work you have done)

Sources of Funding

Many of these positions are unpaid.

Sources of Funding for Unpaid Positions

Funding Sources Available ONLY to Duke Students:

- Duke Endowed Fellowships
- IOLTA
- International Development Fellowships
- Stanback Environmental Fellowships
- PILF

Additional Funding Sources:

- Equal Justice Works
- PSLawNet
- Various bar sponsored programs



Duke Endowed Fellowships

- Duke Endowments (for 1Ls and 2Ls)
- Application (available in CPDC and Pro Bono Office) in January
- Need a letter of commitment from sponsoring organization
- NOT available for judicial clerkships

IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts)

- Last year, three fellowships of \$3000 each
- MUST work for participating IOLTA organization (list available in CPDC and Pro Bono Office)
- All jobs are in NC
- Must work at least 10 weeks

International Development Fellowships

- Created by donations from Class of 2004
- For internships at NGO or independent research focused on international development
- Students eligible for endowed fellowships as well

Requirements for Fellowships

- Application supported by letter from sponsoring organization
- Selection committee will make decision in early April (interviews may be required) and notify applicants
- At end of summer, recipients must: submit a written evaluation, write a letter of thanks to the donor, and participate in programs to aid other students in learning about summer public interest opportunities

Stanback Environmental Fellowships

- Duke alumni, Fred and Alice Stanback, typically fund 142 internships with 40 organizations (some are legal internships)
- \$4500 for 11 weeks of full-time work
- Sponsoring organizations (for 2009 summer – likely very similar for 2010)
www.env.duke.edu/career/stanback2009/index.html
(Can create new projects with these organizations)
- Spring on campus interviews February 25th

PILF

(Public Interest Law Foundation)

- Strongly recommend getting your hours well under way in the fall semester

Equal Justice Works

- \$1000 education award voucher for summer work in qualified nonprofit public interest organization (355 awarded nationwide with regional diversity)
- Application available in March and likely due in early April
- Requires 300 hours of service
- 2009 changes: (1) allowed work with public defenders; (2) allowed work with Legal Fellows at their Host Sites; and (3) set aside slots for students working on eligible mortgage foreclosure related issues
- SEE: www.equaljusticeworks.org/programs/summercorps/



Additional Funding Resources

- PSLawNet – The Public Service Law Network
Go to www.pslawnet.org and follow links for: Career Central, Financing a Career or Summer Job, Summer Funding Resources
- Various Bar Organizations Sponsor Fellowships
(frequently posted in the weekly email from CPDC)

Post Graduation Jobs and Considerations



Fellowships

- Subscribe to Duke Law's Post Graduate Fellowship Listserv (subscribe at: <https://mailman.law.duke.edu/mailman/listinfo/postgraduatefellowships>)

Current and Projected Federal Hiring for Legal Jobs

- The Partnership for Public Service, a government agency, just released a study showing critical needs for government hiring within the next two years

<http://data.wherethejobsare.org/wtja/field/1489>



LOAN Repayment

- Duke has a Loan Repayment Assistance Program
- The new CCRAA (College Cost Reduction and Access Act) provides income based loan repayment (whether you are doing government and public interest work or not). The Equal Justice Works website has a lot of overview information on the program.
- John Ahlers in Duke's Financial Aid Office is an important resource for both of the above– go see him
- Some jobs have loan repayment (including some JAG programs, some federal agencies and some non-profits)