Public Interest & Government Summer Funding

Public interest organizations offer students valuable legal experience and training. However, many of these organizations can only afford to offer unpaid or low-paying summer internships. Therefore, we encourage you to seek funding from organizations other than your employer to help meet your financial obligations for the summer. The following are some resources available within the law school, and from outside organizations.

**Funding for Duke Law Students**

**Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF)**
PILF is a student-run organization dedicated to helping students finance their summer public interest legal internships. PILF carries out its mission by sponsoring various fundraising events throughout the year, distributing the proceeds as fellowships to both first- and second-year law students.

**Burdman/Steckley-Weitzel/Carroll-Simon Endowment**
This endowment supports individual grants of approximately $3,500 for public interest summer employment each year. Information about Burdman/Steckley-Weitzel/Carroll-Simon grants and the selection process can be obtained from the Career Center or the Office of Public Interest & Pro Bono.

**International Development Grant**
This grant is available to students who obtain a summer internship in a developing country. The number of grants and the amount disbursed each year depend on the amount of funding raised and the budgets requested by the successful applicants. Information about the International Development Grant and the selection process can be obtained from the Career Center or the Office of Public Interest & Pro Bono.

**IOLTA**
Every year, Duke Law School is awarded funding for five public interest summer internships 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. More information about IOLTA grants and the selection process can be found on the Public Interest & Pro Bono Office website.

**Stanback Internship Program**
The Stanback program is a partnership between the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences at Duke University and targeted conservation organizations. Every year, Duke Law students with an interest in environmental law participate in the Stanback program. Information about host organizations and interviews for the Stanback program will be published late fall.
Outside Sources of Summer Funding

In addition to the grants offered at Duke Law, there are many organizations that offer summer funding for students seeking employment with non-profit and government agencies. Our Outside Sources of Summer Funding handout provides information on grants available nationwide.

General or Multi-State

Equal Justice Works Summer Corps
Summer Corps provides law students with the opportunity to earn a $1,000 education award voucher for spending their summer in a qualifying internship at a non-profit, public interest organization. For the summer of 2006, six Duke Law students were awarded Summer Corps education vouchers. The application period for Summer Corps is typically in March and April.

Everett Public Service Internship Program
The Everett Program provides students with summer internship experiences working with one of 61 pre-selected public interest groups throughout the country. Interns working in New York City and Washington, D.C. attend weekly events featuring distinguished leaders from the public sector. Not all internships are legal in nature.

Janet Steiger Project – ABA Section of Antitrust Law
Through a working partnership with the National Association of Attorneys General, students will work in the consumer protection departments of the offices of state attorneys general. The following states were selected to receive a Steiger Fellows during the summer of 2006: Illinois, Montana, Texas, Virginia, Iowa, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, Mississippi, Northern Marina Islands, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

John J. Curtin, Jr. Justice Fund – ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty
The program funds 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.

Minority Fellowship in Environmental Law – ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources
The Section’s work on environmental justice is coordinated with not-for-profit organizations representing traditionally underserved groups, other not-for-profit environmental organizations, and local, state and federal governmental organizations which provide placements for the minority law student summer fellows.

Pride Law Fund Fellowship
Pride Law Fund provides four fellowship programs for students working under the supervision of an attorney at a government agency or non-profit:

- The Roberta Achtenberg Public Service Fellowship, in support of work of concern to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the public sector on public policy or of a public service nature;
- The Steven Block Fellowship, in support of work in the area of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights and education;
- The Mary Morgan Women’s Fellowship, in support of legal work on issues of concern to lesbians and bisexual women in particular; and
- The Steven Richter Fellowship, in support of projects providing legal services to individuals with HIV or AIDS.

Robert E. Lee Scholarship and Internship Fund
This Federal Communications Bar Association fund assists law students employed as unpaid summer interns in positions with the FCC and other government Agencies or entities with
jurisdiction over the communications industry (i.e., broadcasting, cable television, telephony, satellites and information technology).

**Robert Masur Fellowship in Civil Liberties**
The fellowship competition is open to first-year law students who intend to carry out significant activities during the summer in the areas of civil rights and/or civil liberties. Proposed activities may include a writing or research project, work with a public interest organization in the areas of civil rights or civil liberties, work on a civil rights or civil liberties law case under the supervision of a faculty member or lawyer, or any other work in the areas of civil rights or civil liberties.

**California**

**Dan Bradley Fellowship – Legal Aid of California**
The goal of the Fellowship is to offer law students, particularly those from low-income or working class backgrounds, the opportunity to consider a career in legal services and other public interest law.

**Robert M. Takasugi Summer Fellowship Program**
The Fellowship Program was created to honor Senior District Court Judge Robert M. Takasugi for his contributions to public interest law, pro bono work and minority law students and attorneys throughout his 24 years of service on the federal bench. Funding and decisions come from the National Pacific American Bar Association. Internship must be in the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area or in the Bay Area.

**South Asian Bar Association of Northern California**
The primary purpose of the fellowship is to fund an internship with a public interest organization in either the South Asian community or the Northern California community-at-large. Applicants must have a demonstrated commitment to serving the South Asian community.

**Women's Lawyers Association of Los Angeles Foundation Frank Kandel Public Interest Grant**
The grant program is designed not to support a summer public interest job, but rather to fund a particular project with a tangible outcome. Grant funds may be requested for a stipend (generally no more than half the total grant request), as well as for costs of the project. Decisions are based on the applicant's project proposal and budget, as well as individual qualifications. Applicants who need help linking up with southern California public interest groups are encouraged to contact the Foundation for assistance.

**District of Columbia**

**Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund**
The AEF fellowship funds a student's internship with a public interest organization that benefits either the Asian Pacific American community or the metropolitan Washington, D.C. community-at-large.

**Charles G. Koch Summer Fellow Program**
Summer fellows participate in an eight-week internship at one of D.C.'s market-oriented research organizations and public interest law firms. Fellows spend the first and last week of the program in policy seminars.

**Illinois**

**Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)**
PILI sponsors a Summer Internship Program for first and second year law students. Each summer, PILI funds dozens of internships at public interest law agencies in the Chicago metropolitan area. The program is open to law students from across the country. The stipend for 10 weeks work is $4,500.
Massachusetts

**Massachusetts Bar Foundation Legal Intern Fellowship Program**
The program awards stipends to law students who have secured a volunteer internship with a qualified nonprofit organization in Massachusetts. Criminal law-related internships are not eligible. Preference is given to permanent/future residents of Massachusetts.

Pennsylvania

**Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Public Interest Fellowship Program**
Fellows spend four weeks working for one of four designated public interest organizations in Pittsburgh: the Neighborhood Legal Services Association, KidsVoice, the Education Law Center, or the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. Recipients who receive and accept an offer to spend the remainder of the summer as a summer associate with Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP will receive a supplemental salary to equal the weekly salary of K&L's summer associates during the Fellowship period.

New Jersey

**New Jersey Summer Legal Internship**
Interns are placed in various legal service programs, public interest organizations and government agencies across the state. Applicants should show an interest in working in New Jersey in the future.

**Peggy Browning Fund Summer Fellowship Program**
The Fund provides stipends for law students who dedicate their summers to working for the National Labor Relations Board, and selected labor unions and nonprofit organizations that advance the cause of workers' rights.