

PUBLIC INTEREST RESOURCES AND TIMELINE 2012-2013

Career Skills Handout Series

Are you interested in pursuing a public interest legal career? This timeline will guide you through the world of pro bono opportunities, public interest career fairs, and post-graduate fellowships. Come to the Pacific McGeorge Career Development Office (CDO) for an individualized advising appointment, and be sure to check out our “Public Interest” handout for an overview of the practice of public interest law.

AUGUST

Come in to the CDO: Have a cup of coffee on us, meet the staff, and check out our library. Visit our blog at www.mcgeorgecdo.com.

Have your application documents reviewed by a CDO career advisor. Watch a NALP Public Interest Resume and Cover Letter webinar in our lobby. For a summary of how public interest resumes should be tailored, go to <http://pslawnet.wordpress.com/tag/resume>.

KEY PUBLIC INTEREST LAW RESOURCES:

Government Honors & Internship Handbook, 2012–2013. The McGeorge CDO pays for access to this listing of summer externships, honors program, and internships in government/public service. See <https://www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm>. Your log in and password are located in the Document Library on McGeorgeCareersOnline (MCO) at <https://law-pacific-csm.symphlicity.com/students/index.php>.

PSJD. Formerly known as PSLawNet, PSJD is the online resource connecting public interest law job-seekers with job opportunities at all experience levels. The McGeorge CDO subscribes to PSJD, providing our students and alums with free access to the site. Just create an account and browse job listings and post-graduate fellowships at <http://www.psjd.org/>.

Equal Justice Works. McGeorge CDO pays for a subscription to the EJW website, which provides valuable resources and programs that help students and alumni pursue a public interest legal career. Go to <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/>.

Sign up for a OneJustice Public Interest Project. The CDO has partnered with OneJustice to offer pro bono opportunities for our students. For details, see www.lawstudentprobono.org.

Signature OneJustice Projects:

- **Justice Bus® Service Learning Project:** OneJustice recruits, trains and transports law students and attorney volunteers to provide much-needed legal clinics in rural, isolated, and underserved areas of California. **This trip is prepaid for by McGeorge CDO.** Limited spots are available.
- **Law Student Pro Bono Project:** OneJustice works with law school partners to engage law students in meaningful volunteer activities during the academic year.

Join the Pacific McGeorge Public Legal Services Society (PLSS). PLSS is a student organization dedicated to enhancing the ability of law graduates to choose public interest or public service careers. It funds a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) and summer grants for public interest internships. See the PLSS blog at <http://blogs.mcgeorge.edu/plss/>.

Research post-graduate fellowships:

Fellowship deadlines are often very early in the academic year, so start now if you haven't already.

- NALP Comprehensive Fellowship Guide
- EJW website
- PSJD website

The CDO will hold a Post-Graduate Fellowship Information Workshop on September 6, 2012.

Interested in Labor Law? Attend the National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference.

Hosted by the Peggy Browning Fund (PBF), this conference will be held in Maryland on October 12–13, 2012. Through fellowships, workers' rights conferences, networking and other programs, PBF provides unique opportunities for law students to work for economic and social justice. The registration deadline is usually in August—check with the CDO for details. Students who are interested in this conference must apply through the CDO. Go to <http://www.peggybrowningfund.org/workers-rights-conference> for more information.

ATTENTION 3D/4E's!

See **EJW's Public Defender Corps** opportunity. Applications are generally accepted beginning in August. For more information, see <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/public-defender-corps/>.

Apply to the **EJW AmeriCorps Legal Fellowship** program. AmeriCorps Fellowship applications will be accepted as early as August 1. See <http://equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/ameri-corps-legal-fellowships/application-center>.

Apply for an **Equal Justice Fellowship**. Starting July 6, 2012, EJW is accepting applications for its 2012–2013 Fellowships. Two-year EJW Fellowships allow attorneys passionate about public interest law to design, develop and implement innovative legal projects. See <http://equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad> for more information.

SEPTEMBER

Participate in McGeorge's Field Placement program. Apply for an externship to get great public service experience and course credit while you are at it! Sign up for an appointment with a Field Placement advisor on McGeorgeCareersOnline. Mandatory pre-placement meetings are generally scheduled in September and October.

Participate in the LSNC Landlord/Tenant Clinic.

Volunteers get extensive training on landlord-tenant laws and intake interview techniques. This one-day clinic will be held on September 8, 2012. Contact the CDO for details.

Attend Your Backstage Pass to Judicial Clerkships in late September. Learn more about the value of a judicial clerkship from McGeorge faculty, alumni and a federal judge. Watch the CDO's blog for details at www.mcgeorgecdo.com.

ATTENTION 3D/4E's!

Come and learn on how to apply for **post-graduate fellowships** on September 6, 2012.

Attention 2D/3E's and 3D/4E's!

The **Equal Justice Works (EJW) Conference and Career Fair**, which will be held in Virginia on October 26 and 27, provides access to job opportunities for law students; connects employers with talented attorneys and law students; and offers a multitude of skill-building and career advising sessions with experts from around the country. Registration opens Tuesday, August 15, 2012. Go to <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/law-school/conference-and-careerfair> for more information.

Attention 3D/4E's!

Interested in working for the federal government? The **Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) program** is an opportunity for 2013 grads to obtain a prestigious paid, two-year internship with one of 80 federal government agencies. PMF applications are usually accepted starting in late September. In order to become a candidate, you must talk with the Pacific McGeorge nominating official. Please contact the CDO for that information. Meanwhile, review the PMF website at <http://www.pmf.gov/becomeapmf/index.aspx>.

Submit your Equal Justice Fellowship. Applications must be received by 6 p.m. EDT on September 18, 2012. See above (page 2) for a description of the fellowship. See also <http://equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad>.

OCTOBER

Volunteer at the California Rural Legal Assistance Employment Law Clinic. Attend CRLA's employment law training in October to become a legal intern at their monthly Stockton clinic. CRLA is a non-profit organization providing legal services to low-income and underrepresented communities. Under the supervision of CRLA attorneys, volunteers will provide direct legal services to low-wage workers.

Attend the PLSS Meet-and-Greet. This event, usually held in October, is co-sponsored by the CDO and provides an opportunity for students to meet and mingle with public interest attorneys.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

If you haven't yet, now is the time to start researching your options for summer and post-graduate public interest opportunities.

While fellowships often have early deadlines, non-profit public interest organizations often hire at the last minute, when they know what resources they will have to fund a new attorney. Create a list of public interest law firms where you would like to work, and continue to check in on their job openings.

DON'T FORGET!

The McGeorge CDO makes sure you have some amazing resources at your fingertips—don't forget to utilize them in your job search!

- PSJD: www.PSJD.org
- Equal Justice Works: <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org>

Start thinking about loan repayment options. Get on the mailing list for *Ask Heather*, a newsletter by loan forgiveness expert Heather Jarvis. To sign up, go to heather@askheatherjarvis.com.

Start networking. Speak with a career advisor or attend a 10-minute orientation session to have access to the CDO's Informal Alumni Mentor Program. Connect with a mentor who can help you navigate your career path in public interest and public service.

Look into Pacific McGeorge's Capital Center for Public Law & Policy. The Capital Center offers a specialized J.D. Certificate in Public Law & Policy. The Capital Certificate curriculum includes training in statutory interpretation and drafting, the working of administrative agencies, public lawyering ethics and required externship or clinic experience. See the McGeorge website for more information.

Attend the Public Interest/Public Sector (PI/PS) Career Fair. In early December, you will receive an email from OneJustice regarding PI/PS Day, which will be held on February 2, 2013 at UC Hastings in San Francisco. PI/PS Day, the largest career fair of its kind on the west coast, provides law students an opportunity to meet and interview with public interest and public sector legal organizations.

Participate in the Record Expungement Clinic. This clinic, hosted by a local community-based organization and sponsored by local legal aid agencies, will assist clients through the criminal record expungement process. Stay posted on this event by checking the CDO blog at www.mcgeorgecdo.com.

JANUARY

Find summer funding for your public interest internship.

- Attend McGeorge PLSS meetings to establish and assess your qualifications to become a potential PLSS Summer Grant recipient.
- Look at PSJD's summer funding resources page at <https://PSJD.org> or <http://www.pslawnet.org/summerfundingresources>.
- Apply to the Peggy Browning Fund Fellowship Program for a 2013 Summer Fellowship to fund your summer position in a labor-related organization. The application deadline is January 13, 2013.

Attend the CDO's program *How to Work a Job Fair*. This workshop prepares you for PI/PS Legal Careers Day as well as our annual "Career Night" job fair.

DON'T FORGET!
Deadlines for registering and applying for interviews at PI/PS Day are in January.

FEBRUARY

Participate in the Public Interest / Public Sector (PI/PS Day) Legal Careers Day. This career fair will be held on **February 2, 2013** at University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Attention 3D/4E's!
Apply for the Capital Fellows Programs by February 22, 2013. Become an Assembly Fellow, Senate Fellow, Executive Fellow or a Judicial Administration Fellow and learn about the development and implementation of public policy in California. See www.csus.edu/calst/programs for more information.

Attend the CDO's *Career Night* on February 7, 2013. This is McGeorge's annual career fair, offering opportunities to meet 25 to 30 employers in the public interest and government fields.

Attend the CDO's State Judicial Clerkship program if you are interested in clerking for a state court judge after graduation. Watch the CDO's blog for details at www.mcgeorgecdo.com.

MARCH

Join the Justice Bus® Spring Break Trip: Get on the bus with about 10 law school colleagues and spend the weekend providing legal services to low-income communities. This trip is prepaid for by the McGeorge CDO. For more information about OneJustice, see www.lawstudentprobono.org.

Attention 2D/3E's!

Now is the time to start researching post-graduate fellowships. Many application deadlines are in early fall, and some are even in the summer before your final law school year. Use the NALP Comprehensive Fellowship Guide, the EJW website, and the PSJD website to help start your search.

APRIL / MAY

Apply for the PLSS grant to help fund your summer public interest job. The deadline is in April. See the PLSS blog for details at <http://blogs.mcgeorge.edu/plss/>.

Apply for the Equal Justice Works Summer Corps 2013. This grant program provides law students with the chance to spend their summer working on a legal project at a qualifying nonprofit public interest organization or public defender office of their choosing. The application period closes in April. Go to <http://equaljusticeworks.org/law-school/summercorps> for more information.

Attend the **Federal Judicial Clerkship Workshop** in April to learn about the nuts and bolts of applying for federal clerkships. Watch the CDO's blog for details at www.mcgeorgecdo.com.

Remember to log your public service volunteer hours for the Capital Commendation for Public Service. Capital Commendation students receive a certificate and special notation in the graduation program.

For more information, please refer to

http://www.mcgeorge.edu/Research_Centers_and_Institutes/Capital_Center_for_Public_Law_and_Policy_Home/Student_Education_and_Activities/Capital_Commendation_for_Public_Service.htm.

JUNE

Attention 1D/2E's and 2D/3E's!

Apply to participate in Pacific McGeorge Legal Clinics. Application deadlines are generally in June.

- Administrative Adjudication Clinic (Spring)
- Bankruptcy Clinic (Fall and Spring)
- Criminal Appellate Advocacy Clinic (Spring)
- Elder and Health Law Clinic (Fall and Spring)
- Federal Defender Clinic (year-long)
- Housing Mediation Clinic (Fall and Spring)
- Immigration Law Clinic (Fall and Spring)
- Prisoner Civil Rights Mediation Clinic (year-long)

For more information, go to the McGeorge website at

http://www.mcgeorge.edu/Academic_Programs/Experiential_Learning/Pacific_McGeorge_Legal_Clinics.htm.