



LEGAL INTERNSHIP SUMMER 2021

The American Civil Liberties Union is the largest and oldest organization in the United States dedicated to protecting the civil liberties of all people in this nation through litigation, public education, advocacy, and organizing. The ACLU litigates high-impact cases addressing a wide range of constitutional and civil rights issues, including criminal law reform, immigrants' rights, racial justice, LGBTQ rights, sex discrimination, freedom of speech, religious freedom, reproductive freedom, voting rights, police misconduct, prisoners' rights, and privacy. The ACLU of Michigan, with nearly 40 staff, is one of the state's leading civil rights organizations.

Summer legal interns with the ACLU of Michigan have a unique opportunity to work on cutting-edge civil liberties and civil rights cases. In addition to a vibrant and innovative caseload, the ACLU of Michigan offers legal interns a rewarding summer experience, including opportunities to attend court hearings, social activities, supervision and mentorship.

Some of our recent litigation includes:

- a class action lawsuit to overhaul Detroit's broken cash bail system
- a class action lawsuit to prevent the Trump administration from deporting Iraqis without giving them an opportunity to challenge their removal orders in immigration court
- a class action lawsuit under the Fair Housing Act challenging tax foreclosures in Detroit because of their disparate impact on people of color
- a U.S. Supreme Court case on behalf of a five-year-old girl with cerebral palsy who was not allowed to bring her service dog to school
- a U.S. Supreme Court case on behalf of a woman who was fired from her job when she disclosed to her employer that she is transgender
- a federal lawsuit to obtain safe drinking water for the people of Flint
- a class action lawsuit to reform special education in Flint after the entire population was exposed to lead
- an Eighth Amendment challenge to Michigan's practice of sentencing children to life in prison without the possibility of parole

Please see our website for more information on our current and past case dockets:
<http://www.aclumich.org/courts/legal-dockets>.

INTERNSHIP OVERVIEW

Responsibilities: Law students work on many aspects of potential and ongoing cases, such as drafting memoranda addressing the merits of a case, meeting with and interviewing plaintiffs and

witnesses, and drafting complaints and briefs. Students may also be asked to analyze the constitutionality of pending legislation or help with discovery.

Locations: Given the global COVID-19 pandemic, our statewide offices are closed and all staff are working remotely. Depending on the status of the pandemic as we get closer to summer 2021 and ACLU workplace policy, the internship might be held remotely or in-person. If in-person, internships are available at our Detroit headquarters and our West Michigan Regional Office in Grand Rapids. In your cover letter, please indicate whether you have a geographic preference and if you are equipped to participate in a remote internship.

Qualifications:

- Must have finished first year of law school
- Excellent research, writing and communication skills
- Commitment to civil rights and civil liberties
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; must value and respect differences of race, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion, ability and socio-economic circumstance
- Students who have studied constitutional law are preferred

Supervision: Legal interns will be supervised by the legal director, deputy legal director, staff attorneys, and legal fellows. They may also be asked to assist a cooperating attorney on a pending case or to work with other ACLU staff or coalition partners.

Commitment: Our summer legal internship requires a 10 to 12 week commitment.

Stipends: We encourage all applicants to seek public interest fellowship funds through their law school. If you are unable to secure funding from your law school for a public interest internship, the ACLU is able to provide funding to make this opportunity more feasible for law students who would otherwise be required to seek paid employment over the summer. Please indicate in your cover letter if you are interested in ACLU funding.

Applications: Applications are considered on a rolling basis, so interested students should apply as early as possible, and in any case no later than January 31, 2021. Please email a cover letter, resume and writing sample to:

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To learn more about the ACLU, go to www.aclumich.org or www.aclu.org. The ACLU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.