



LEGAL INTERNSHIPS AND EXTERNSHIPS WINTER TERM 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 impact cases addressing a wide range of constitutional issues, including immigrants' rights, racial justice, LGBT rights, free speech, religious freedom, police misconduct, reproductive freedom, voting rights, sex discrimination, prisoners' rights, and privacy. The ACLU of Michigan, with 40 staff, is one of the state's leading civil rights organizations.

During the academic year, legal interns or externs with the ACLU of Michigan have a unique opportunity to work on cutting-edge civil liberties and civil rights cases. 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, 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.

Internship 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 in January 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
- Very strong research, writing and communication skills
- A demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and civil rights issues
- 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/Credit: We prefer at least a 15 hour per week commitment with at least one day per week in the office. Most students receive academic credit for this unpaid internship/externship.

Applications: We will start reviewing applications on November 19 for the winter term. Open until filled. **Please email a cover letter, resume and writing sample to:**

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