



JOB DESCRIPTION – LEGAL POLICY EXTERNSHIP/INTERNSHIP

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, legislative advocacy, and organizing. The ACLU of Michigan is one of the state’s leading civil rights organizations. As the courts have become increasingly political, we cannot always rely on them to advance or protect our civil liberties. Therefore, the role of our legislative program has become even more vital. The ACLU of Michigan works in the legislature to advocate for statewide policies that advance and protect our civil liberties and fight against bills that infringe on our freedoms.

The ACLU of Michigan’s legislative program works on a breadth of issues. Legal policy interns with the ACLU of Michigan have a unique opportunity to work on innovative civil liberties and civil rights policy. Some of our legislative efforts include:

- **Criminal justice:** Reforming Michigan’s pretrial detention and parole systems; advancing juvenile justice; reforming Michigan’s sex offender registry; establishing an indigent defense commission.
- **First Amendment and open government:** Ensuring policies do not infringe upon protected speech; advocating for expanded government transparency legislation.
- **LGBT:** Amending the state’s civil rights law to include sexual orientation and gender expression.
- **Policing:** Advocating for transparent racial profiling policies, regulating the use of military equipment, and combatting police abuse and misconduct.
- **Privacy and technology:** Establishing standards and safeguards for the government’s use of technology including body cameras, drones, cell phone trackers, and license plate readers.
- **Voting:** Expanding access to the ballot and fighting against policies that limit voters’ access to the ballot such as strict voter ID legislation.
- **Reproductive freedom and women’s rights:** Combatting laws that target abortion providers and limit access to abortion; ending the practice of shackling of pregnant women in prisons; fighting gender discrimination.

INTERNSHIP OVERVIEW

Responsibilities: Law students work on many aspects of public policy such as: analyzing the constitutionality of pending legislation, creating and updating policy issue briefs and policy related legal memos, assisting in quarterly and annual legislative reports, and researching as needed.

Internship Locations: Legal policy internships will be located in the ACLU of Michigan’s legislative office in Lansing, Michigan. Remote work placement is considered on a case by case basis.



Qualifications:

- Must have finished first year of law school
- Strong research, writing and communication skills
- A demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and civil rights issues
- Students who have studied constitutional law or with a public policy background are encouraged to apply

Supervision: Legal policy interns will be directly supervised by the by the ACLU of Michigan's Policy Counsel and Political Director.

Credit: Our legal policy internship requires at least a 10 week commitment. This is an unpaid internship. Arrangements can be made with the student's law school for work/study stipends or course credit.

Applications: Applications are accepted for placement during the academic calendar year. Summer internships are considered on a case by case basis. Applications are considered on a rolling basis, so interested students should apply as early as possible.

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 American Civil Liberties Union Fund of Michigan is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All interested individuals, including people of color, women, LGBT persons and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.