

INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities is seeking students for unpaid internships. Located in Hartford, the Commission is Connecticut's chief civil rights law enforcement agency and the oldest state civil rights agency in the United States. Interns will work in the Commission's legal division, which is responsible for litigating claims of employment, housing and public accommodation discrimination. The legal division also represents the agency in other matters at the trial and appellate levels. The workload of the office divides into two general areas: (1) preparing cases for hearing; and (2) preparing amicus curiae briefs or performing in-house administrative written work. Interns may concentrate in one area or the other or work in both areas.

Case preparation involves preparing discrimination cases for litigation before human rights referees, who function as administrative law judges, or in Connecticut trial courts. Assignments may also include responding to individual legal questions that arise during the course of complaint investigation or in judicial proceedings or questioning witnesses at fact-finding. Internship duties will typically include legal research and writing, drafting pleadings and interrogatories, interviewing witnesses prior to trial and engaging in settlement negotiations. Students admitted under Connecticut's student practice rule may have an opportunity to question witnesses in public hearings or argue in court.

Brief writing and in-house administrative assignments include the opportunity to prepare briefs in cases raising significant questions of public policy in the state and federal courts and to identify cases raising significant issues from among cases in current court dockets in which the agency may intervene as of right. Students will also review and make recommendations on cases dismissed by the agency to determine whether the dismissal should be reconsidered.

Depending on the workload of the office and interest and skill level of the intern, assignments will range from glamorous to routine. Interns will leave with hands-on experience performing a range of challenging assignments involving real law work, not answering the phone, copying or filing. Your experience will be invaluable in preparing you for a career in public interest law or governmental service. You will work in an office where you will be treated like a part of the legal team. Work hours are flexible.

A background in discrimination law, administrative law and/or constitutional law is helpful but not mandatory. An interest in government employment or a public service career is a necessary prerequisite, as is a commitment to social justice and human rights.

Students should submit an application package that includes a cover letter explaining your background and interest in the position; a resume; and a writing sample. Submission by email at the address below is preferred. The cover letter should indicate (1) why you are interested in working in civil rights and your background for that work; (2) whether you wish to work preparing cases for hearing or writing briefs or a combination of the two; (3) whether you prefer to work full-time or part-time; (4) whether you will be applying for a grant or are eligible for some other stipend; and whether you prefer to intern during the fall, spring or summer session.

For additional information, please feel free to contact Charles Krich, Principal Attorney, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106; Telephone (860) 541-3429; Email: charles.krich@ct.gov or Kimberly Jacobsen, Human Rights Attorney III, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106; Telephone (860) 541-3437; Email: kimberly.jacobsen@ct.gov.