

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

Summer 2010 Legal Internship

The [Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law](#) is a non-partisan public policy and law institute that focuses on fundamental issues of democracy and justice. Our work ranges from voting rights to redistricting reform, from access to the courts to presidential power in the fight against terrorism. A singular institution—part think tank, part public interest law firm, part advocacy group—the Brennan Center combines scholarship, legislative and legal advocacy, and communications to win meaningful, measurable change in the public sector.

We seek interns to work alongside staff in our New York and Washington offices on the Brennan Center's policy advocacy, research, and litigation initiatives. Activities may include legal and policy analysis; legislative drafting at federal, state, and local levels; administrative and legislative advocacy; public education and scholarship; and litigation in trial and appellate courts.

The Center's Program Areas

Democracy Program

The Democracy Program seeks to bring the ideal of representative self-government closer to reality, by eliminating barriers to full and equal political participation and by striving to ensure that public policy and institutions reflect the diverse voices and interests that make for a rich and energetic democracy. The Program collaborates with grassroots groups, advocacy organizations, and reform-minded government officials to eliminate barriers to full and equal political participation and to promote institutions that meaningfully reflect diverse interests and views.

Assignments will be drawn from work on voting rights (including the rights of people with felony convictions); reform of election administration (including voter registration restrictions, photo ID requirements for voting, and other practices likely to suppress the vote and have a disproportionate impact on communities of color); campaign finance reform at the federal, state, and local level; and protecting the independence, impartiality, and integrity of the courts.

Justice Program

The Justice Program seeks to bring the ideal of a just society closer to reality. The Program collaborates with grassroots groups, advocacy organizations, and reform-minded government officials to promote equal treatment in our courts and to protect civil liberties in the wake of the war on terror. Each intern will work within a specific project of the Justice Program: Access to Justice, Criminal Justice, or Liberty and National Security.

The Access to Justice project is working to close this “justice gap” by expanding the types of civil cases in which low-income people have a right to counsel, increasing funding for the federal Legal Services Corporation (LSC), removing onerous restrictions on LSC-funded organizations,

and improving language access in the courts. The Criminal Justice project is leading a national indigent defense reform movement that is dedicated to strengthening defender services and to securing the promise of Gideon. It is also working to ensure that a new generation of “fees and fines” does not unfairly shift the costs of criminal justice systems onto those least able to shoulder them.

Through the Liberty and National Security Project, we fight to preserve our constitutional values against erosion in the post-9/11 world and to set meaningful limits on the exercise of executive power. We develop innovative policy recommendations, and then use litigation and public advocacy to ensure that our nation’s commitment to our national security does not trump the nation’s commitment to fairness, accountability, and due process.

Washington, DC Office

Interns working in the DC office can expect their work to have a greater emphasis on advocacy and lobbying than on research and litigation, though you will gain exposure to all facets of our work. We will be hiring one legal intern to work with our Liberty and National Security Project and 1-2 interns to work with the Director of our DC office on a variety of Brennan Center issues.

Qualifications: Excellent legal research, analysis, and writing skills; initiative, imagination, and versatility; and a passion for our issues.

The Brennan Center, an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, is strongly committed to diversity and welcomes applicants of all races, ethnicities, genders, and sexual orientations, including people who have been previously incarcerated.

How to Apply: Interested students should send: (1) a cover letter explaining which particular programs or projects they are interested in joining: Democracy (NY), Justice-Access to Justice/Criminal Justice (NY), Justice-Liberty & National Security (NY or DC), or DC Office; (2) a current law school transcript; (3) a legal writing sample; (4) a current resume; and (5) contact information for three references. These items should be sent by e-mail to brennancenterjobs@nyu.edu with “Summer Legal Internship” in the subject line.

The deadline for applications is **February 15, 2010**, but interested students are strongly encouraged to apply early.