1L Summer Job Search: Questions to Ask Yourself

Next summer you will have the opportunity to see the legal process in action and contribute to the issues you care about and that motivated you to come to law school. The process of exploring where you want to work is exciting! Here are suggested questions to ask yourself as you go through this process to help focus your search. Remember that 1L summer isn’t the only time to expand your skills and explore your interests, but it’s a great opportunity to do so!

**BROAD QUESTIONS:**
- Why did I come to law school? (Re-read your law school admissions essay for a reminder!)
- What lawyers do I know that inspire me and why?
- What post-grad job opportunities have I heard about that excite me?
- What speaks to my passions, my interests, my heart, and my head?
- What gaps on my resume do I want to fill?
- What have I done that I would like to do more of?
- What volunteer work do I gravitate towards?
- What aspect of law school has energized me the most?

**FOCUS OF THE WORK:**
- Do I have an interest in a particular substantive area of the law?
- Is there a particular population I want to concentrate on?
- Is there a field or issue that I specifically want to pursue?
- Do I want to do criminal work or civil work?
- Do I want to work for the prosecution or the defense?

**LEGAL SKILLS:**
- Do I want to work with clients?
- Do I want to be research and writing focused?
- Am I interested in litigation, transactional, or legislative work?
- Do I want exposure to the courtroom?
- Do I want to do direct service, impact litigation or policy work?

**TYPE OF ORGANIZATION/WORK ENVIRONMENT:**
- Do I want to work in a legal services organization, a public policy organization, or a government agency?
- Am I open to different types of organizations and various approaches to my focus area?
- Do I prefer teamwork or independent work?
- Do I prefer an organized and formal environment or an environment that is casual and non-hierarchical?