

A few of the most popular
LAW & SOCIAL JUSTICE placements
available through The Philadelphia Center:

American Friends Service Committee; Women's Program Assistant: The American Friends Service Committee carries out service, development, social justice, and peace programs throughout the world. Founded by Quakers in 1917, AFSC's work attracts the support and partnership of people of many races, religions, and cultures. AFSC's work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice. The organization's mission and achievements won worldwide recognition in 1947 when it accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with the British Friends Service Council on behalf of all Quakers. The AFSC is directed by a Quaker board and staffed by Quakers and other people of faith who share the Friends' desire for peace and social justice. AFSC works to understand and address the root causes of poverty, injustice, and war. AFSC's goal is to relieve and prevent suffering through both immediate aid and long-term development both at home and abroad. The AFSC Nationwide Women's Program (NWP) works to insure inclusion of feminist perspectives at all levels of the organization and its programs. Work topics include women's poverty issues; anti-militarism; issues of global corporations; lesbian feminism; reproductive rights; gender analysis of program issues; and immigration. An interest in feminism is helpful for candidates interested in this position.

Anti-Defamation League; Community Services Intern: The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is a civil rights and human relations organization that fights anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry here and abroad, combats international terrorism, probes the roots of hatred, advocates before Congress, comes to the aid of victims of bigotry, develops educational programs, and serves as a public resource for government, media, law enforcement and the public, all toward the goals of countering and reducing hatred. With its National Headquarters in New York City, ADL has a network of Regional and Satellite Offices throughout America, and in Jerusalem, Vienna and Moscow. The mission of ADL today is, as it has been in the past, to expose and combat the purveyors of hatred in our midst, responding to whatever new challenges may arise. The particulars may change, but the goal remains the same: to stand up for the core values of America against those who seek to undermine them through word or deed. Community Services Intern will deal with aspects of direct constituent services, public relations, research and program administration. In the Community Services Department, intern will be responsible for responding to and researching individual and group complaints of discrimination; assisting in the planning of meetings and programs; researching varied topics; and drafting letters and memos on issues of prejudice.

Defender Association; Legal Intern: The Defender Association of Philadelphia is an independent, non-profit corporation that was created in 1934 by a group of Philadelphia lawyers who were dedicated to the ideal of high quality legal services for indigent criminal defendants. That ideal continues today, as some two hundred and fifteen full time assistant defenders represent clients in adult and juvenile state and federal trial and appellate courts and at civil and criminal mental health hearings as well as state and county violation of probation/parole hearings. Association attorneys also serve as the Child Advocate in neglect and dependency court. The Defender Association of

Philadelphia represents approximately seventy percent of all persons arrested in Philadelphia. Full-time assistant defenders rotate their assignments by representing clients in the Municipal Court of Philadelphia, at preliminary arraignments and misdemeanor bench trials. Defender Association attorneys also appear in the Court of Common Pleas at preliminary hearings, miscellaneous motions court, juvenile delinquency hearings, and felony bench or jury. Legal Intern in Major Trials Unit will assist attorneys with preparation of legal defenses for trial including investigation, interviewing witnesses, and assisting in preparation of legal motions.

District Attorney, Homicide; Legal Assistant: The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for the City and County of Philadelphia. By and through her Assistant District Attorneys, Lynne Abraham fights crime by prosecuting criminals and fighting for the rights of victims. The District Attorney's office is responsible for the prosecution of over 70,000 criminal cases yearly and oversees a professional staff of 300 assistant district attorneys and 275 support staff. Homicide Unit prosecutes all murders that occur in the City and County of Philadelphia and is composed of the most veteran trial attorneys in the DA's Office. The unit works closely with the Philadelphia Police Department's Homicide Unit to prepare all homicide cases for trial. Homicide Unit Prosecutors work closely with the staff of Families of Murder Victims, explaining the procedures of a defendant's arrest, preliminary hearing and trial to friends and family members of homicide victims. Prosecutors in Homicide are generally assigned to a case within 10 days of the defendant's arrest and remain responsible for every aspect of the case, including all pre-trial motions, jury selection, preparation of witnesses, trial and sentencing. Most homicide trials are jury trials that average one to three weeks. Legal Intern assists ADA with all tasks. Opportunity to facilitate workshops; help with general child care responsibilities; organizes files; do preliminary legal research and writing; assist paralegals in file maintenance, correlating documents, updating records; and observe courtroom activity.

Lisa Baird, Legal Assistant: Lisa Baird has been an immigration lawyer for ten years. Ideally, candidates for the Legal Assistant position would speak Spanish or another foreign language, but that is by no means a prerequisite. Work could include the following: answering the phone and taking messages; doing initial interviews with prospective clients; researching country conditions for people seeking political asylum; sending mailings; and filling out immigration forms. This opportunity would be especially interesting for someone who enjoys meeting people from different backgrounds, cultures, etc.

Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project; intern: The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PAILP) seeks to deliver civil legal services to the institutional population of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PAILP was created and designed to meet the needs of low income residents of our prisons, jails, state hospitals, and statecenters. The goal of the Institutional Law Project is to ensure equal access to justice for indigent institutionalized persons. Types of services the PA Institutional Law Project provides include Direct Representation, Information and Referral, Class Representation, Legislative and Administrative Advocacy, and Group Representation. PAILP is a non-profit organization administered by the Pennsylvania Legal Services Center. One person office. Student is exposed to all aspects of this placement.

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts; Intern: Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts ("PMC") is a non-profit organization working to improve the court system in Pennsylvania. PMC's work focuses on four major areas: (1) Providing information to citizens about their roles as jurors and litigants; (2) Improving the jury system to encourage and enhance jury service; (3) Combating racial and gender bias in the courts; and (4) Advocating a change in the way judges are selected in Pennsylvania. Students who are interested in public policy and/or are considering a career in law, government, or social justice will be the best fit. Projects will vary depending on the student's interests and skills, but generally students can expect to keep our web site up-to-date, write letters to the editor, research projects, attend meetings with lawyers and other advocacy organizations, read newspaper articles and figure out where to file them, and help organize public forums. Supervisor Lynn Marks, Esquire, is a former member of The Philadelphia Center faculty, having taught Urban Policy Issues and the elective Social Justice.

Support Center for Child Advocates; Child Advocacy Intern: A non-profit organization founded in 1977, the Support Center for Child Advocates offers free legal and social services to Philadelphia's abused and neglected children. The Support Center advocates for these child victims with the goal of securing a permanent, nurturing environment for each child in our care. Child Advocates teams specially trained volunteer attorneys with staff social workers and lawyers who are specialists in child welfare practice and children's legal issues. Working together in this unique service model, we protect children by securing social services, finding alternative homes and helping them testify in court. Now in its 26th year of service, the Support Center for Child Advocates is reaching more children than ever before. In the past year, we provided legal and social service advocacy to more than 700 abused, neglected, abandoned and medically needy children. Support Center for Child Advocates offer services through four Core Programs: Child Protection; Medically Needy Children; Kinship Care; and Adoption. Referrals come from the courts, District Attorney's Office, Department of Human Services, hospitals and private social service agencies. As one of the few places to call for a lawyer for a needy child, Child Advocates helps children to testify, heal and thrive. Child Advocacy Intern is involved in court accompaniment, works with social workers and attorneys, assists on casework with families, and phone follow-ups.

Women Against Abuse; Municipal Court Project Intern: Women Against Abuse (WAA) is the largest and most comprehensive domestic violence program in Pennsylvania, serving some 15,000 survivors of domestic violence and their children each year. In more than 20 years of service, WAA has helped more than 140,000 people find the path to a violence-free life. As the only organization in Philadelphia whose sole purpose is to assist victims of domestic violence, WAA operates three sites: the only shelter in Philadelphia exclusive for battered women and their children; the nation's first legal center for domestic violence victims; and the region's first transitional housing program for abused families. Each of these sites is linked to a 24-hour hotline through which all programs can be accessed. A variety of services are offered through each site. WAA Municipal Court Program assists victims of domestic violence in criminal court, when an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) is prosecuting the case. Municipal Court Intern counsels the victims in court, discusses options with them, and acts as liaisons between the victim and the ADA.

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