

Criminal Record Sealing Program – Law Student Extern

Rising for Justice (RFJ) is seeking committed law students interested in direct client representation and written advocacy to draft motions to seal for its Criminal Record Sealing Program.

About Rising for Justice

Created in 1969, Rising for Justice, formerly known as D.C. Law Students in Court, is the oldest clinical legal education program in the District of Columbia. RFJ currently operates as a public interest legal services provider and clinical education program. Our mission is to leverage the collective forces of students and experienced advocates to achieve justice for all.

RFJ embraces equal justice and diversity as core values. We strive to maintain a workplace that is vibrant, welcoming, innovative, and collaborative. We are committed to fostering the thoughtful exchange of ideas and to ensuring that all voices are heard and respected. We seek interns who embrace our mission and values.

What we do

Rising For Justice’s Criminal Record Sealing program is one of the few in Washington, D.C. where individuals with criminal records can seek free attorney representation to seal their criminal records and put the past behind them. Every year, thousands of D.C. residents are arrested but never found guilty of any wrongdoing; under D.C.’s regressive criminal record sealing statute, those arrest records are publicly available until a motion to seal is filed. Our program writes motions on our clients’ behalf so that they are no longer weighed down by their past.

Responsibilities

The extern will conduct client interviews and draft motions to seal for RFJ clients. The motions will be reviewed by RFJ staff and filed on behalf of our clients. The student will gain tremendous experience in client interviewing and written advocacy. A successful candidate will have demonstrated commitment to working with people affected by the criminal justice system, be an excellent writer, and be able to manage their own time effectively. The time commitment for this externship is 5-10 hours/week. This will be an unpaid position.

Application Instructions

The deadline to apply for this internship is 10/25/2024. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to MaryHelen Getty (mgetty@risingforjustice.org).

For more information about our programs, please visit risingforjustice.org