

Criminal Record Sealing and Respondent Representation Program Intern

Rising for Justice (RFJ) is seeking committed summer interns to work in its trailblazing Criminal Record Sealing and Respondent Representation programs. We are looking for interns with excellent writing skills and a demonstrated interest in helping clients. Over the course of the summer, our interns will be an integral part of our team: interns will have daily interaction with clients and will help draft a number of motions to seal criminal records.

What we do

Criminal Record Sealing Program: RFJ'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. RFJ directly represents and partners with pro bono attorneys to provide free legal counsel to help residents of the District to pursue the complicated legal process of clearing their criminal records.

Respondent Representation Program: Every year, thousands of individuals appear at CPO hearings in the Domestic Violence Division of the Superior Court and face losing custody of their children, deportation, incarceration, or other severe consequences that generally are considered only to result from criminal proceedings. However, where criminal defendants have the right to counsel, most CPO respondents must represent themselves. Rising For Justice is fighting this inequity by being the only organization to provide legal counsel to respondents.

Responsibilities

We are seeking interns who are deeply committed to the mission and purpose of RFJ and the Record Sealing/Respondent Representation programs. We offer meaningful, hands-on opportunities to work directly with clients on a daily basis.

We expect that most of the time in the internship will be working on motions to seal or motions to set aside under the Youth Rehabilitation Act. An intern can expect to interview clients, conduct investigations about the client's case and life, and draft motions. Interns will receive training and feedback from our staff attorneys and social workers.

Some other typical assignments include:

- Assisting with the intake process for the programs
- Managing and updating our case management files
- Assisting with law clinics, community resource fairs, and fundraising events

- Responding to telephone and email inquiries
- Providing additional office support as needed

About Rising for Justice

Created in 1969, RFJ, 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.

Application Instructions

The deadline to apply for this internship is **March 21, 2025**. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to MaryHelen Getty (mgetty@risingforjustice.org) with the subject line “Summer 2025 Legal Intern Application”.

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