

## **PJI Litigation and Advocacy 2024 Summer Internship**

The Promise of Justice Initiative (PJI) is a non-profit organization that seeks the humane, fair, and equal treatment of individuals in the criminal justice system. Its multi-pronged approach to change includes civil and criminal litigation, community outreach, and other advocacy focusing on inhumane conditions of confinement, forced labor in prisons, prosecutorial misconduct, racial bias, effective representation, and the ultimate abolition of the death penalty. PJI is actively litigating the inadequate medical care for all inmates at the prison, the over-detention of citizens across Louisiana, the state's lethal injection procedures, and many other injustices. We also defend clients in their individual criminal cases through strategic criminal litigation, focusing on ending excessive sentences and challenging non-unanimous jury convictions. We are committed to creative and collaborative advocacy, combatting inhumane conditions and practices in prisons, and house several coalitions committed to criminal justice reform and crime survivor advocacy.

PJI shares office space and works closely with The Capital Appeals Project, a capital criminal defense organization representing death penalty clients across various levels of appeals. This unique structure allows direct representation to inform systemic challenges—and vice versa—and provides the flexibility to identify and pursue change where it is most needed.

### **Internship Description and Requirements**

Each intern is assigned to an attorney for supervision and mentorship. Interns will be integrated onto legal teams to work on active cases, which can include researching and drafting legal memoranda and filings, visiting and interviewing clients and witnesses, and preparing for trials, appeals, or other court appearances. Interns may also have the opportunity to work on other types of advocacy efforts, such as supporting coalitions, drafting reports, assisting clients and their families, and contributing to policy and educational work.

The internship begins with a training program, and we also provide a program of weekly brown bag lunches where interns have the opportunity to learn from and meet some of the top public interest lawyers and workers from other organizations around the city, as well as our own staff. The nature of our work requires some evening and weekend work, and may include some travel.

### **Funding**

As a non-profit, PJI's summer internships are generally unpaid. PJI encourages students to pursue outside funding for the summer, and will work closely with any school or grant funding organization where interns qualify for funding. However, PJI is an equal opportunity employer, and is committed to ensuring that students who are passionate about the work not be disqualified

due to financial constraints. Where there are no available alternative funding sources, such as school public interest organizations or other grants, PJI may be able to provide a summer stipend.

Please apply with a cover letter, resume, short (>10 pgs) writing sample, and three references to Hardell Ward at [pjiinternship@defendla.org](mailto:pjiinternship@defendla.org). Applications are processed on a rolling basis.