

CAP/PJI Capital/JLWOP Criminal Defense 2021 Summer Internship

The Capital Appeals Project (CAP) is a non-profit law office based in New Orleans, Louisiana that provides capital appellate and post-conviction representation to indigent people on Louisiana's death row. CAP is one of the leading death penalty appeals offices in the country and has represented clients in several recent cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, including *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, *Snyder v. Louisiana*, and *Montejo v. Louisiana*. CAP provides high-quality representation in the state and federal courts throughout Louisiana and acts as a resource to public defenders and criminal defense lawyers across the state. CAP attorneys have successfully represented clients in state district courts, the Louisiana Supreme Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court, which in turn has improved the quality and standards of representation for indigent capital defendants in Louisiana. We also represent a number of non-capital juvenile clients in proceedings implementing the recent *Miller/Montgomery* Supreme Court decisions which limit life without parole sentences for juvenile offenders.

CAP works closely with The Promise of Justice Initiative (PJI), a New Orleans based nonprofit that works to create positive change for people in the criminal justice system at the intersection of direct services, impact litigation, and community engagement. We believe in a world where our justice system values each person; a world where the system supports rehabilitation, and a world where we approach justice with a lens of healing and restoration for those who are harmed. This world will be safer and more secure for all people. Through PJI, we also represent death sentenced inmates in federal habeas corpus proceedings and non-capital clients in strategic criminal representation.

Internship Description and Requirements

Each summer intern is assigned to a senior attorney for supervision and mentorship. Capital and JLWOP criminal defense interns work on individual cases in appeal, post-conviction or federal habeas proceedings, assisting attorneys, investigators and other staff. Depending on the caseload of their supervising attorney, interns may also have the opportunity to participate in some civil conditions of confinement cases. Work includes visiting clients, reviewing trial records, legal research and writing including preparing motions and briefs, and assisting with investigation, reviewing and collecting records, and conducting factual analysis in cases. The work demands rigorous attention to detail and creative thinking and offers students a closely supervised opportunity to learn the intricacies of death penalty jurisprudence, as well as criminal, appellate, and federal habeas law.

The internship begins with a training program, and we 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.

Funding

As non-profits, CAP/PJI's summer internships are generally unpaid. CAP/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, CAP/PJI are equal opportunity employers, and are 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, CAP/PJI may be able to provide a summer stipend.

Please apply with a cover letter (indicating interest in either/both the capital or JLWOP work), resume, a short writing sample, and three references to Erica Navalance at CAPvolunteer@defendla.org. Applications are processed on a rolling basis.

PJI/CAP is committed to the principle of equal employment opportunity for all employees. All employment decisions at PJI/CAP are based on business needs, job requirements and individual qualifications, without regard to race, color, religion or belief, national, social or ethnic origin, sex (including pregnancy), age, physical, mental or sensory disability, HIV Status, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, past or present military service, history of incarceration, family or parental status, or any other status protected by the laws or regulations in the locations where we operate. PJI/CAP will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on any of these characteristics. PJI/CAP encourages applicants of all ages, and does not discriminate against formerly incarcerated individuals.