

PJI Civil Litigation/Unanimous Jury Project 2021 Summer Internship

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. Its multi-pronged approach to change includes civil litigation, community outreach, and other advocacy focusing on inhumane conditions of confinement, prosecutorial misconduct, racial bias, effective representation, and the ultimate abolition of the death penalty. PJI is actively litigating the extreme, inhumane heat conditions on death row at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, the inadequate medical care for all inmates at the prison, and the state's lethal injection procedures. Through PJI, we also represent death sentenced inmates in federal habeas corpus proceedings and non-capital clients in strategic criminal representation, and are involved in a multitude of coalitions to promote criminal justice reform. PJI also recently won the US Supreme Court case *Ramos v. Louisiana*, and is now undertaking the representation of thousands of people across the state who were convicted by non-unanimous juries.

PJI 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 summer intern is assigned to a senior attorney for supervision and mentorship. Civil litigation interns work on the ongoing civil and conditions of confinement litigation, which can include drafting motions or responses, visiting clients and witnesses, and preparing for trials or appeals. Where there is interest, interns may also have the opportunity to work on some criminal cases, as PJI also represents a limited number of clients in their federal and assorted relief proceedings. Unanimous Jury Project interns will work with a team of attorneys, specialist, and pro bono firm partners across the country to identify and file petitions on behalf of incarcerated persons convicted by Jim Crow juries.

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 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, PJI may be able to provide a summer stipend.

Please apply with a cover letter (indicating interest in either/both the civil litigation or unanimous jury work), resume, short writing sample, and three references to Erica Navalance at CVolunteer@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.