



National Legal Aid & Defender Association Defender Legal Services Division

Law and Policy Internship Program

Overview

The National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA), founded in 1911, is America's oldest and largest nonprofit association devoted to excellence in the delivery of legal services to those who cannot afford counsel. For 100 years, NLADA has pioneered access to justice at the national, state and local level through the creation of our public defender systems, groundbreaking legislation and the creation of institutions from the Sentencing Project to the Legal Services Corporation. A leader in the development of national standards for indigent defense services, NLADA also provides advocacy, training and technical assistance to indigent defense programs across the country.

Defender Legal Services (DLS) works to advance the equal justice agenda through the development and dissemination of research and information. DLS utilizes the Association's website and publications, list services and training conferences to provide the indigent defense community with ready access to essential resources. NLADA-DLS has received grant funding to improve efficacy of indigent defense services and ensure adequate resources through identifying and advocating for evidence-based justice policies and funding.

Responsibilities

Interns will work directly with the Vice President of Defender Legal Services & Chief of Integrated Programs, Defender Counsel and Defender Researchers as well as other staff members to address the needs of the indigent defense community and influence national criminal justice policy. Specifically, interns will be expected to:

- Conduct research on legal matters and policy issues, as needed, to advance the interests of the indigent defense community;
- Aid in drafting reports, concept papers, and/or related publications;
- Assist in monitoring new developments in criminal law and aid in drafting *Defender Update*. This e-newsletter is circulated to a wide network of varied criminal justice stakeholders and policy makers to analyze recent legal and policy developments and to spotlight defender offices across the country;
- Provide support and assistance for the Justice Standards, Evaluation and Research Initiative, which is designed to create a system for the empirical measurement of effective defense services and evidence-based criminal justice policy;
- Complete other projects as assigned.



Qualifications

NLADA seeks creative and motivated law students or recent graduates with excellent research and writing abilities and a demonstrated commitment to equal justice. NLADA will work with students seeking academic credit through approved law school programs.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest, resume, and a writing sample via e-mail or regular mail to:

Walt Sisson
Director, Administration & Finance Officer
National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA)
1901 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20036
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