

Law Student Opportunities

Public Rights Division

Civil Rights Enforcement Section, Worker Rights and Fair Labor Bureau & Bureau of Children's Justice: San Diego



The Civil Rights Enforcement Section of the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, has volunteer extern opportunities available for law school students in its San Diego Office.

The Civil Rights Enforcement Section enforces civil rights laws on behalf of the Attorney General in his independent capacity, as well as on behalf of client agencies. The Section's work includes combating discrimination in public accommodations, housing, and employment, and enforcing civil rights laws in the areas of hate crimes, sexual assault, police practices, human trafficking, immigrant rights, education, environmental justice, and the protection of Native American sacred and cultural sites. The Section includes the Bureau of Children's Justice and the Workers' Rights Bureau.

The Worker Rights and Fair Labor Bureau, which is part of the Civil Rights Enforcement Section, brings civil and criminal actions to protect workers and uphold workplace standards. The Bureau has used California's Unfair Competition law to obtain restitution of unpaid wages, civil penalties, and injunctions to bring businesses into compliance with applicable labor and employment, tax, and insurance laws.

The Bureau engages in a broad array of work ranging from initiating investigations into unscrupulous industries and employers who may be exploiting the State's most vulnerable workers, pursuing civil litigation and criminal prosecution to enforce California's wage and hour laws, authoring amicus briefs, submitting comments in response to proposed federal rules and regulations, and monitoring proposed legislation regarding labor and employment matters.

The Worker Rights and Fair Labor Bureau works closely with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies including the California Department of Industrial Relations - Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Employment Development Department, and the United States Department of Labor. It also coordinates its efforts with other sections of the Attorney General's Office.

The Bureau of Children's Justice, which is also part of the Civil Rights Enforcement Section, works to protect the rights of children and focus attention and resources of law enforcement and policymakers on the importance of safeguarding every child so that they can meet their full potential. The Bureau focuses its enforcement and advocacy efforts on several areas, including discrimination and inequities in education, and California's foster care, adoption, and juvenile justice systems.

Law student externs will assist deputies by reviewing and assessing evidence in investigations and related projects and preparing written memoranda on a broad range of complex legal issues. Externs may also assist with witness interviews and may attend court hearings.

Applications are being accepted from law school students, as well as law school graduates willing to volunteer their services. While it is not required, law students in their third year of law school are especially encouraged to apply. Volunteer applicants must have excellent writing, research, and analytical skills. Hours are flexible, but students must generally be able to work at least 16 hours per week. Language skills are preferred,

but not required.

How to Apply:

Please submit a single PDF that includes a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and two references, via email to:

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