

Law Student Opportunities

Criminal Law Division

Post-Conviction Justice Unit

Los Angeles



The Post-Conviction Justice Unit ("PCJU") of the Criminal Division of the California Attorney General's office reviews claims of factual innocence in cases from across the state and looks back at cases originally prosecuted by the Department of Justice for resentencing consideration. This is a new unit of the California Department of Justice, created in 2023 to seek to remedies in cases where there has been a miscarriage of justice or wrongful conviction.

The law student program in Los Angeles is presently accepting applications from students for law clerk positions in the Post-Conviction Justice Unit. This work is primarily reviewing applications for conviction review from incarcerated persons and Innocence Projects, reviewing potential new evidence, discussing investigation of new evidence, and writing memoranda analyzing the merits of innocence claims. During the summer, law clerks will have the opportunity to participate in a calendar of events with other students in the office. Students are introduced to all the sections within the Criminal, Civil, and Public Rights Divisions. They are also exposed to the legal community through field trips and have the opportunity to participate in various trainings in different areas of law. Summer clerks are typically required to work for a period of ten weeks for 40 hours per week. Clerks working during the fall or spring semesters must commit to a minimum of two, eight-hour days per week. Student internships are unpaid. However, students may receive school credit and work study funds may be available through individual law schools.

To apply, candidates should submit the following items: (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a writing sample of no more than ten pages, and (4) a law school transcript. Candidates chosen for an interview must also submit contact information for at least two references who are familiar with the candidate's work habits and analytical skills. A mandatory background security check will be performed on all candidates prior to the beginning of the internship. Acceptance of resumes is rolling. However, we encourage interested candidates to apply as promptly as possible. 1Ls who have completed Legal Writing will be considered.

Apply and direct questions to:

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