2016 Summer Public Interest Grants: Application Information & Instructions

Application Deadline is Tuesday, March 22 at noon.

A. Purpose and Eligibility:

The Summer Public Interest Grants are designed to financially ease the burden of University of Iowa law students who obtain unpaid summer public interest positions. There are several grants available for summer 2016, each one listed below with the applicable eligibility criteria. A student need only submit one Summer Public Interest Grant Application, and if eligible, will be considered for multiple grants. All applicants must be either a 1L or 2L in good standing, and must be volunteering with a public interest or government agency. Public interest agencies include IRS Code 501 (c) (3) entities, government agencies, and advocacy groups.

B. Available Grants:

Citizen Lawyer Program (CLP) Fund
- Must demonstrate commitment to law-related services during the summer in the public or private non-profit sectors (as defined above) without compensation.

Class of 1998 Public Interest Summer Internship Fund Award
- Must be in a volunteer summer public interest position that is not otherwise paid or receiving academic credit.
- Preference given to public interest agencies as defined above.
- Level of need and the intensity of commitment to public interest will also be considered.

Equal Justice Foundation (EJF) Summer Grants
- Must be employed or volunteer with an eligible public interest employer.
- Must demonstrate a commitment to public interest.
- Must have volunteer experience, either with EJF or another public or private not-for-profit agency (as defined above).

Nicole Richardson Access to Legal Justice Fund
- Must provide law-related services during the summer in the public or private non-profit sectors without compensation.
- First preference will be given to students working on behalf of criminal defendants who face prosecution or persecution. May include (but not limited to) public defender’s office, post-conviction relief cases, immigration cases in the administrative law system, or work where persons are seeking expansion of rights as opposed to advocating or assisting in the prosecution of individuals.
- Students must submit an additional essay explaining how your work this summer and in the future is in furtherance of the principles of this particular grant.
**Stanley & Gail Richards Fund in Support of Disability Programs**
- To support law students working with organizations in the public or non-profit sector that advocate for or support disabled people.

**Stephen & Erna Morain Summer Fellowship**
- Must demonstrate commitment to providing law-related services during the summer in the public or private non-profit sectors (as defined above) without compensation.
- First preference to students providing law-related services to district judges in Iowa.
- Second preference given to students in government and non-profit agencies in Iowa.

**Trandafir Summer Fellowship Fund**
- Must demonstrate commitment to providing law-related services to district judges in the Midwest.
- Level of financial need will also be considered.

**C. Application Requirements:**

Please use this checklist to ensure your application is complete:

- [ ] Complete and submit an online application. (Click [here](#) to start your application.)
- [ ] The following items must be submitted to Jessica Diers in Room 276 to complete your application:
  - [ ] Cover page for supporting documentation (download [here](#)).
  - [ ] (1) copy of the correspondence offering you a summer position.
    - [ ] You do not need a formal letter; an email from the agency is sufficient.
    - [ ] If you have not yet secured a summer position, you will not be disqualified if you are engaged in an active search for an eligible public interest position.
  - [ ] (6) copies of your Volunteer Service Hours form (download [here](#)).
  - [ ] (6) copies of your Expense & Income Worksheet (download [here](#)).
  - [ ] (6) copies of your Public Interest Commitment Essay
    - [ ] In an essay no longer than 2 pages double-spaced, please describe why you selected the proposed position; how it will enhance the development of your legal skills and career; how it fits within your previous public service experience; and your future goals and long-term commitment to public service.
    - [ ] Please title your essay “Public Interest Commitment Essay.”
  - [ ] (6) copies of your “Plan B” Short Essay
    - [ ] In a short essay no longer than ½ page double-spaced, explain how you intend to fund your summer work expenses in the event that you are not extended a summer grant. Will you be able to take the job even if you do not receive money from the law school? Please be honest and candid in your answer.
    - [ ] Please title your short essay “Plan B.”
  - [ ] *If you are applying to the Nicole Richardson Fund:* (6) copies of your essay explaining how your work this summer and in the future is in furtherance of the principles of this particular grant.
NOTE: Applications are reviewed anonymously by the selection committee. Be sure that you have removed all identifying information from documents you are asked to submit with your application.

Be aware that if you do not follow the application guidelines set forth in this document, your application will receive reduced consideration by the selection committee and may ultimately be deemed ineligible.

D. Deadlines/Application Processing:

- Submission deadline is **noon on Tuesday, March 22, 2016**.
- Decisions will be made on a rolling basis.
- If an applicant has not secured an eligible public interest employment job offer by the submission deadline but is actively seeking an eligible summer position, the student will not be disqualified. You must submit an application by the submission deadline to be considered. Upon receiving a qualifying job offer, you must contact Dean Emily Hughes (emily-hughes@uiowa.edu) IMMEDIATELY to amend your application.

E. Confidentiality of Information Provided in the Application:

All information provided in this application packet is protected as a confidential student record under the federal law (The Family Educational Records and Privacy Act). It will be shared with persons who serve on the selection committee (although de-identified to the extent possible) and with the financial aid office and other administrators authorized by law to gain access. Students who are earning academic credit for their externship and who also get stipends awarded should note the special statement in paragraph E, below.

F. Important Information for Students Who Will Earn Academic Credit for Their Summer Externship:

An American Bar Association accreditation standard prohibits students from both getting compensated for and earning credit for externships. “Compensation” is defined very broadly, and may include awards made under these grant programs. However, funding used to “cover expenses reasonably related to the externship” will not be considered as compensation. Even though a student may receive a summer financial aid package to help fund the tuition and other expenses, we understand that not all expenses may be covered or even permitted under federal loan eligibility guidelines. **Please be aware that if you are awarded funding under this application process and you are getting academic credit for your externship, you will be required to keep track of your actual expenses that are associated with the externship.** At or near the end of the summer, you will be required to submit documentation of actual expenses that are not covered by loans or other sources and that will be covered, therefore, by awards under this application process. Information about budgeting provided in this application will be available to the financial aid office to assist with this accounting requirement.