

Rising for Justice – Expungement and Respondent Representation Program Fall 2024 Undergraduate Internship Posting

About Rising for Justice:

Created in 1969, Rising For Justice (RFJ), formerly known as D.C. Law Students in Court, is the oldest clinical legal education program in the District of Columbia. RFJ currently operates as a public interest legal services provider and clinical education program. Our mission is to leverage the collective forces of students and experienced advocates to achieve justice for all.

RFJ embraces equal justice and diversity as core values. We strive to maintain a workplace that is vibrant, welcoming, innovative, and collaborative. We are committed to fostering the thoughtful exchange of ideas and to ensuring that all voices are heard and respected. We seek interns who embrace our mission and values.

What we do:

Expungement Program: Rising For Justice’s Expungement program is one of the few in Washington, D.C. where individuals with criminal records can seek free attorney representation to seal their criminal records and put the past behind them. RFJ directly represents and partners with pro bono attorneys to provide free legal counsel to help residents of the District to pursue the complicated legal process of clearing their criminal records.

Respondent Representation Program: Every year, thousands of individuals appear at CPO hearings in the Domestic Violence Division of the Superior Court and face losing custody of their children, deportation, incarceration, or other severe consequences that generally are considered only to result from criminal proceedings. However, where criminal defendants have the right to counsel, most CPO respondents must represent themselves. Rising For Justice is fighting this inequity by being the only organization to provide legal counsel to respondents.

Responsibilities:

We are seeking interns who are deeply committed to the mission and purpose of Rising for Justice and the Expungement/Respondent Representation programs. We offer meaningful, hands-on opportunities to work directly with clients on a daily basis. **For Fall 2024, interns should be available to work 20 hours per week for a minimum of three months, starting the week of September 9th.**

Some typical assignments include:

- Assisting with the intake process for the civil protection and expungement programs
- Conducting investigations and interviewing clients and witnesses
- Managing and updating our case management files
- Assisting with law clinics, community resource fairs, and fundraising events
- Developing content for marketing and outreach efforts
- Responding to telephone and email inquiries
- Providing additional office support as needed

Application Instructions:

The deadline to apply for this internship is August 1st, 2024. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to MaryHelen Getty (mgetty@risingforjustice.org).

And for information on our programs visit <https://risingforjustice.org/>.