

USD School of Law

Pre-Law Internship Program

Program Background and Objectives

With over 60 years of alumni success, the University of San Diego (USD) School of Law is recognized for the excellence of its faculty, depth of its curriculum, and strength of its clinical programs. Each year, USD School of Law educates approximately 900 Juris Doctor and graduate law students from throughout the United States and around the world, though many of our students come from the San Diego region. The law school is best known for its offerings in the areas of business and corporate law, constitutional law, intellectual property, international and comparative law, public interest and taxation.

USD School of Law has established an unpaid internship program (the Program) for undergraduate students considering pursuing a legal education upon graduation. The Program is intended to introduce these undergraduate students to the USD School of Law as well as public service through the legal profession.

Program Details

The Program will take up to five undergraduate students at a time. Interns will be assigned to one or more of the following public interest centers at the USD School of Law, Centers for Public Interest Law (*Internship opportunities are based on project availability within the Centers. At some times during the year, there may be no internship opportunities with one or more of the Centers.*):

- [Children's Advocacy Institute](#) (CAI): CAI is one of the nation's premiere academic, research, and advocacy organizations working to improve the lives of children and youth, with special emphasis on improving the child protection and foster care systems and enhancing resources that are available to youth aging out of foster care.
- [Consumer Protection Policy Center](#) (CPPC): Established in 1980, the Consumer Protection Policy Center, formerly known as the Center for Public Interest Law is a respected, nonpartisan voice for the broad-based interests of California's under-represented: consumers, the poor, children, and the elderly. Its mission is to challenge government to be responsive and accountable to the interests of the general public in all aspects of governmental decisionmaking. CPPC is often the lone advocate for public protection before the legislature and regulatory agencies in the face of increasingly heavy lobbying by special interests. CPPC interns work under the supervision of experienced public interest lawyers on various policy-related projects pertaining to agencies that regulate businesses and professions.
- [Energy Policy Initiatives Center](#) (EPIC): EPIC is a non-profit academic and research center that studies energy policy issues affecting the San Diego region and California. EPIC

integrates research and analysis, law school study, and public education, and serves as a source of legal and policy expertise and information in the development of sustainable solutions that meet our future energy needs.

Interns in the Program will work with center personnel and law students on a variety of research projects and assist with clerical and other tasks as assigned. Projects may involve helping staff conduct research for reports, reviewing and analyzing pending state and federal legislation and drafting letters of support or opposition for center staff consideration, identifying and comparing each state's laws on certain center-related topics, and reviewing regulatory proposals by state or federal agencies and preparing related materials. Once accepted to the Program, students will coordinate their schedules with the appropriate center director. The weekly time commitment will typically be ten hours per week.

While in the Program, interns will be able to attend certain USD School of Law events, have the opportunity to observe at least one law school class, and interact with the school's professors, students and administrators.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for USD's Program, applicants must:

- have a genuine interest in pursuing a legal education;
- be a junior or senior; and
- be in good academic standing.

If you will be seeking academic credit for participating in this USD School of Law Program, please consult your college's registrar for further information. If you are seeking credit from USD, you will also need to meet all eligibility requirements set forth by the undergraduate academic unit that would be granting such credit.

If you are pursuing credit from UCSD through the Local Internship Research Program of UCSD's Department of Political Science, you must have:

- passed at least 90 units;
- a 2.5 minimum cumulative GPA overall;
- a GPA of 3.0 or higher in political science;
- taken POLI 30; and
- taken at least two upper-division political science courses.

Application

Please email your application and attachments to Katie Gonzalez, Associate Director of the Centers for Public Interest Law, at officemanager@cpil.org. If you are seeking academic credit as a USD student, please also email your application package to your supervising faculty member.

Applications should include a **cover letter, the completed application form, a transcript, a resume, and a letter of recommendation from a professor or teaching assistant**. The cover letter should explain your interest in the internship, highlight your qualifications for this specific position, and provide information about any experience that makes you a particularly good candidate. We strongly encourage you to write a letter that reflects well on you as a young professional who the lawyers and law students at the USD School of Law will want to bring into their projects.