



# ACLU OF NEVADA

## STUDENT LEGAL PROGRAM

The American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada's Student Legal Program gives law students the opportunity to work as part of the ACLU of Nevada's legal team in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The ACLU of Nevada is a dynamic organization dedicated to protecting civil liberties across the state of Nevada. An affiliate of the national American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Nevada has a long track record of successfully defending the Bill of Rights and operating as a crucial government watchdog in the state.

The ACLU of Nevada works on a wide array of issues, like LGBT rights, immigrants' rights and criminal justice. It is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to preserving civil liberties and civil rights. The ACLU of Nevada was the first ACLU affiliate to support an individual's constitutional right to bear arms under the Second Amendment.

Our program gives students the opportunity to learn about numerous constitutional and procedural legal topics, and to delve into different aspects of public interest lawyering, from assisting with media to helping draft briefs. The ACLU of Nevada has hosted students from law schools across the country (including Harvard, Hofstra, University of Illinois, Tulane, UNLV, and UVA). The summer program includes research seminars and a First Amendment workshop, as well as social and cultural activities. One intern said that the summer program was "the best experience" that she had in law school, and that "no other program has taught me more about how to be a good, moral lawyer than my experience at the ACLU." Students also appreciate the "friendly atmosphere" of the office and the balance between fun and hard work.

### The ACLU of Nevada's Successes Include:

- Halting the execution of a Nevada inmate.
- Obtaining a court order allowing an Orthodox Jewish police officer to wear the beard mandated by his religious beliefs at his desk job.
- Establishing that the First Amendment applies to performers and buskers on the Las Vegas Strip.
- Stopping retroactive application of sex offender laws that would have classified even minor crimes committed long ago as "sex crimes" requiring registration.
- Invalidating an ordinance that criminalized sharing food with the homeless in Las Vegas.



## Application Information

The ACLU seeks individuals with excellent academic credentials and, most importantly, a desire to learn about the ACLU of Nevada's work. Flexibility and the ability to work as part of a team are a must. The ACLU of Nevada cannot offer funding; however, extern credit or funding may be available through your law school or through grant programs. Please contact your school for information.

Please provide a resume, writing sample, transcript, and contact information for at least two references. We hope to make decisions March 23, 2012 but will consider applications on a rolling basis.

Send applications by PDF to:

Tamika Shauntee at [shauntee@aclunv.org](mailto:shauntee@aclunv.org)

***The ACLU of Nevada is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from all qualified people, including women, people of color, persons with disabilities, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals.***



# LEGAL INTERN WORK PLAN

The ACLU of Nevada's legal intern/extern program touches on all of the aspects of the ACLU of Nevada's work including our legal, programmatic, and advocacy efforts.

As a legal intern, you will be supervised directly by the ACLU of Nevada's Legal Director and work with the entire legal team while developing advanced skills in brief writing, client communication, civic engagement and research. You will gain an understanding of the U.S. Constitution, as well as civil liberties and civil rights laws in the U.S. and the state of Nevada.

Your legal experience will include, but is not limited to, work in all of the following areas:

- ***First Amendment.*** Legal interns will research current laws, attend meetings and/or perform legal observations with the legal department at events throughout the state. If there are any pending or active cases in the area, they will assist on the briefs and provide additional legal support.
- ***Criminal Justice.*** Legal interns will work with the legal department and organization as a whole to monitor and assist with criminal justice issues specific to Nevada. They will attend meetings, provide potential testimony during the Nevada Legislature and draft Know Your Rights Informational Cards.
- ***Homelessness.*** Legal interns will have the opportunity to correspond with several community agencies regarding the challenges to civil liberties faced by homeless individuals and families. These opportunities will consist of attending meetings regarding the homeless population in the city, assisting with researching the issue amongst other states and brainstorming ideas to assist with advocacy.
- ***LGBT.*** Legal interns will work on the emerging rights of the LGBT community. They will assist in the research of the abundance of issues that are constantly in debate in the state of Nevada. Amongst those issues are the public accommodations for the transgender community, bullying in the schools and many other issues that may arise.
- ***Racial Injustice.*** The state of Nevada has several organizations that we work with to monitor and track any and all trends in racial injustice. Legal interns will assist us in tracking statewide racial injustices by assisting with the intake complaint process and attending meetings with the local groups.
- ***Immigration.*** Legal interns will have the opportunity to assist the organization's legal department in advocating for changes in the current Nevada immigration laws and monitoring any and all legislation related to immigration laws. They may also assist in any active litigation if it becomes necessary.
- ***School to Prison Pipeline.*** Nevada has one of the largest school districts in the country. Due to the enormity of the district, there are many issues that affect a student's right to an education. Some of these issues include, but are not limited to, racial profiling, privacy and many other concerns. Legal interns will assist with the monitoring of these issues through consistent review of intake complaints from local students and parents. We also may occasionally be asked to speak about these issues to students at local schools. Legal interns may be asked to compile legal presentations geared toward a younger generation and their rights.

On occasion, there may also be legislative issues that our legal department addresses. During these times, our legal interns may have the privilege of testifying before our legislature, city council or other governmental body on an issue important to the ACLU of Nevada.