

**Center for Law & Policy Solutions Internship Program  
Spring 2021**

**Description**

The mission of the Center for Law & Policy Solutions (CLPS) is to inform the development of good public policy through evidence-based practice and research. With a strong focus on state and local government issues, the CLPS assists policymakers, community organizers, and the general public in identifying problems and developing solutions to complex policy challenges. A collaboration among the Rockefeller Institute, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs, University at Buffalo School of Law, the Government Law Center at Albany Law School, and Empire State College, CLPS examines issues from a cross-section of disciplines ranging from political science and law to criminal justice and social work.

In fulfillment of our mission, the CLPS Internship Program is designed to give students hands-on/virtual exposure to policy analysis and advocacy, including research. The internship consists of: (1) a placement at the Center for Law & Policy Solutions; (2) a series of professional development workshops and trainings; and (3) networking opportunities with CLPS policy experts and legal professionals, as well as community leaders. Interns will work closely with the director, Dr. Laura Rabinow, to collect and analyze data and write research deliverables such as blogs and policy briefs. General findings will be presented at a policy webinar sponsored by the Rockefeller Institute of Government.

For the Spring 2021 semester, the CLPS Internship Program will particularly focus on issue areas related to “Environmental Justice & Public Policy in the United States.” Throughout the program, students will consider the history of the Environmental Justice (EJ) movement in the United States, the codification of EJ principles in landmark U.S. public policies, key concepts and debates in EJ policy, and how intersectional issues have and have not been reflected in such policy.

**Objectives**

The internship’s objectives are twofold, namely to equip students with hands on policy experience and support their professional development. To this end, the internship will provide students with the opportunity to:

- Conduct policy analysis under the supervision of professional researchers, receiving feedback on their research and writing, as well as the opportunity to publish in an online forum;
- Network with CLPS staff and policy experts, who will serve as informal mentors;
- Develop professional skills necessary for a career in the public or private sectors. These skills include but are not limited to time management, workplace etiquette, and politically persuasive writing; i.e., writing for or against a position using evidenced-based policy arguments.

### **Expectations**

This internship is a credit-bearing and paid internship for students who are enrolled full-time at their respective institution. Interns are paid \$12/hour for ten hours a week for 15 weeks. Once applications are reviewed and placements for the program are offered/accepted students must register for the appropriate course at their institution and have paid the required tuition fees in order to receive credit for the internship. Interns will be expected to work ten hours a week, researching and writing a final policy brief, in addition to contributing to the daily operations of the Center for Law & Policy Solutions. The CLPS Internship Program will be housed virtually this year on the Slack platform, using Zoom and Google Docs. This arrangement will enable students to conduct hands-on policy analysis in a collaborative setting from wherever they are located. Depending on evolving events and public health regulations there may also be opportunities for in-person experiences in and around the Capitol.

### **Application**

To apply, please send an email to the Director (contact information below) with the following materials:

- Your resume.
- A cover letter regarding your interest, skillset, and relevant experience or goals with regard to the program.
- 2-3 Professional or Academic References (include email contact).
- A copy of your transcript (unofficial copies are accepted, but official copies may be requested at a later date).

To apply (or if you have any further questions), please contact:

Dr. Laura Rabinow, Deputy Director of Research  
& Director of CLPS Internship Program  
Rockefeller Institute of Government  
Laura.Rabinow@rock.suny.edu