

## **PUBLIC INTEREST EMPLOYMENT LINKS**

Below are sources that current students and recent graduates may find beneficial when looking for employment in the public interest job sector. Each source is briefly described and includes a link to the relevant website. These sources include public interest search engines listing current employment openings, information about local public defender and district attorney's offices, other governmental departments, and local nonprofits.

### **1. General Public Interest Job Sites**

#### **[PSJD](#)**

A database with job listings including: student internships, post-graduate fellowships, and full-time public interest jobs.

#### **[ABA Government & Public Sector Lawyers Division](#)**

Contains a Public Lawyer Career Center. Must be an ABA member.

#### **[Equal Justice Works](#)**

Equal Justice Works offers a continuum of opportunities for law students and lawyers that provide the training and skills that enable them to provide effective representation to underserved communities and causes.

#### **[National Legal Aid & Defender Association](#)**

The NLADA Job Board is a free service that connects organizations and professionals across the equal justice community. Though postings vary, they typically include positions in civil legal aid services, defender organizations, pro bono and public interest organizations, public interest law firms, and academia.

#### **[OneJustice](#)**

OneJustice provides critical skills, training, resources, and support to more than 100 nonprofit legal organizations, law schools, law firms and businesses and thousands of lawyers and law students to help them stretch capacity to assist the up to 8 million at-risk low-income people to resolve pressing legal problems.

## **2. Criminal**

### *State-level*

#### **California Attorneys for Criminal Justice**

California Attorneys for Criminal Justice is the country's largest statewide organization of criminal defense lawyers and allied professionals. Their [Employment Opportunities](#) page highlights current job openings in California.

#### **California District Attorneys Association**

The California District Attorneys Association is the source of continuing legal education and legislative advocacy for its membership. In addition to offering seminars, publications, and extensive online tools, CDAA serves as a forum for the exchange of information and innovation in the criminal justice field. Their [Job Postings](#) page lists current district attorney openings throughout California. Law clerk internships are also included.

### *County-level*

#### **Santa Clara County**

##### **Santa Clara County Employee Services Agency**

Lists current Santa Clara County employment opportunities, including public defenders and district attorneys.

#### **Alameda County**

##### **District Attorney Employment Opportunities**

Lists current job openings.

- [Law Clerk Program description and application process](#)

##### **Public Defender Employment Opportunities**

Describes the hiring process for various positions including: Post-Bar Legal Assistants, Associate Deputy Public Defenders, and Summer Law Clerks.

## **San Mateo County**

### **[District Attorney Employment Opportunities](#)**

Lists current job openings and includes information on their law clerk program.

### **[Private Defender Program](#)**

San Mateo County does not have a traditional Public Defender's Office. Since 1968, the County of San Mateo has contracted with the San Mateo County Bar Association to provide indigent criminal defense. See their [job page](#) for current openings.

## **Santa Cruz County**

### **[District Attorney Employment Opportunities](#)**

Lists current job openings and describes the procedure for applying for a law clerk position.

### **[Public Defender Positions](#)**

The County's Employment Opportunities webpage is where openings may be found.

## **3. Government (other than criminal)**

### *National*

#### **[Careersingovernment.com](#)**

Online job board devoted to public-sector employment. Search by state or city.

#### **[GovernmentJobs](#)**

Online government job board. Search by state, city, or zip code.

#### **[GovSpot](#)**

Provides fact sheets and information on all branches of the U.S. government, links to government employment and grant opportunities as well as news articles on current events and policies.

## [Hillzoo](#)

Democratic Hill jobs, Republican Hill jobs, off the hill jobs for political, lobbying and policy/legislative jobs.

## [USAJOBS](#)

Federal government job listings and library databases.

### *State-level in California*

## [CalCareers](#)

This website provides current openings with the State of California.

**Note:** There are dozens of California state government agencies that employ attorneys. The following provides a partial list of such agencies.

## [Board of Equalization](#)

The Board of Equalization is responsible for reviewing, equalizing, or adjusting property tax assessments, assessing taxes on insurers, and assessing/collecting excise taxes on alcoholic beverages. It also acts as the appellate body for corporate franchise and personal income tax appeals.

## [Department of Business Oversight](#)

The Department of Business Oversight (DBO) protects consumers and oversees financial service providers and products. The DBO supervises the operations of state-licensed financial institutions, including banks, credit unions, and money transmitters. Additionally, the DBO licenses and regulates a variety of financial service providers, including securities brokers and dealers, investment advisers, payday lenders, and other consumer finance lenders.

## [California Coastal Commission](#)

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination.

### **California Public Utilities Commission**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies.

### **Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR)**

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is responsible for the operation of the California state prison and parole systems.

### **Franchise Tax Board**

The Franchise Tax Board's (FTB) mission is to provide the services and information to help taxpayers file accurate and timely tax returns and pay the proper amount owed.

### **Health & Human Services Agency**

The California Health and Human Services Agency oversees departments and offices that provide a wide range of services in the areas of health care, mental health, public health, alcohol and drug treatment, income assistance, social services, and assistance to people with disabilities.

### **Department of Industrial Relations**

The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) was established in 1927. Its mission is to improve working conditions for California's wage earners and to advance opportunities for profitable employment in California. DIR administers and enforces laws governing wages, hours and breaks, overtime, retaliation, workplace safety and health, apprenticeship training programs, and medical care and other benefits for injured workers.

### **Department of Insurance**

The California Department of Insurance (CDI) was created in 1868 as part of a national system of state-based insurance regulation. CDI's functions include: overseeing insurer solvency, licensing agents and brokers, conducting market conduct reviews, resolving consumer complaints, and investigating and prosecuting insurance fraud.

## Department of Justice

The Department of Justice is the department in the California executive branch under the leadership of the California Attorney General. The Department provides a range of services, including: public safety and law enforcement support services, providing legal opinions to state and local government, evaluating the scientific validity of proposed research projects, protecting children and seniors from harm, enforcing federal and state civil rights laws, protecting consumers, and environmental protection.

- The Attorney General's [Honors Program](#) is a two-year program for recent law school graduates and newly admitted lawyers who are committed to public service

## Department of Managed Health Care

The California Department of Managed Health Care protects consumers' health care rights and ensures a stable health care delivery system.

## Office of Legislative Counsel

The Office of Legislative Counsel is a nonpartisan public agency that drafts legislative proposals, prepares legal opinions, and provides other confidential legal services to the Legislature and others.

## Department of Social Services

The California Department of Social Services' mission is to serve, aid, and protect needy and vulnerable children and adults in ways that strengthen and preserve families, encourage personal responsibility, and foster independence.

## State Compensation Insurance Fund

Established in 1914 by the state legislature, State Fund has operated for 100 years, is California's largest provider of workers' compensation insurance, and is a vital asset to California business. State Fund's purpose is to provide fairly priced workers' compensation insurance, help make workplaces safe, and restore injured workers.

## Department of Transportation

Caltrans manages more than 50,000 miles of California's highway and freeway lanes, provides inter-city rail services, permits more than 400 public-use airports and special-use hospital heliports, and works with local agencies. Caltrans carries out its mission of providing a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability, with six primary programs: Aeronautics, Highway Transportation, Mass Transportation, Transportation Planning, Administration, and the Equipment Service Center.

## Water Resources Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board's mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use.

## **4. Local Nonprofits**

### *General Legal Aid*

#### The Bar Association of San Francisco: Justice & Diversity Center

The Justice & Diversity Center (JDC) advances fairness and equality by providing pro bono legal services to low-income people and educational programs that foster diversity in the legal profession. JDC delivers free legal services through its Legal Services Programs division, which consists of the [Pro Bono Legal Services Program](#), [Homeless Advocacy Project](#), and the [Immigration Program](#). JDC provides enrichment programs to diverse youth and young adults through its [Diversity Educational Programs](#).

#### Bay Area Legal Aid

Bay Area Legal Aid provides legal aid to low income clients. They are the largest civil legal aid provider serving seven Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara.

#### California Rural Legal Assistance

CRLA is nationally recognized as a leader in farmworker and migrant service provision through community outreach, educational training, and direct legal service. CRLA not only serves farmworker and migrant communities, but all communities in California.

### **Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto**

Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA) is a nonprofit offering legal services that improve the lives of low-income families throughout the region. CLSEPA specializes in immigration, housing, workers' rights, records clearance, and consumer protection.

### **East Bay Children's Law Offices**

The East Bay Children's Law Offices (EBCLO) is a nonprofit child advocacy organization that provides legal representation to children and youth who are the subject of abuse and neglect proceedings, delinquency proceedings and probate guardianship proceedings in Alameda County Courts. EBCLO is dedicated to high quality legal representation that incorporates a comprehensive approach to advocate for children and empower their voices in court proceedings.

### **East Bay Community Law Center**

East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) follows a Social Indicators of Justice framework that seeks to address the underlying causes of poverty and economic and racial inequality in order to increase justice and improve opportunities in the areas of economic security, education, health and welfare, housing, and immigration. EBCLC employs multiple tactics to serve its mission, including community education, legal counseling and limited-scope representation, wrap-around legal and social services, and local, state, and federal policy advocacy.

### **Law Foundation of Silicon Valley**

The Law Foundation of Silicon Valley provides free legal services to residents in need living in Santa Clara county. Their five programs include: Health Legal Services (HLS), Fair Housing Law Project (FHLP), Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY), Mental Health Advocacy Project (MHAP), and Public Interest Law Firm (PILF).

### **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area**

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area works to advance, protect, and promote the legal rights of communities of color, and low-income persons, immigrants, and refugees. Assisted by hundreds of pro bono attorneys, LCCR provides free legal assistance and representation to individuals on civil legal matters through direct services, impact litigation and policy advocacy.

### **Legal Services for Children**

Legal Services for Children (LSC) provides free representation to children and youth who require legal assistance to stabilize their lives and realize their full potential. LSC represents children during expulsion hearings, guardianship cases, immigration cases, and foster care cases.

### **Pro Bono Project**

Pro Bono Project utilizes talented and caring attorneys who volunteer their time and energy to work on full and limited scope pro bono cases in family law, domestic violence, and consumer law. Pro Bono Project takes referrals in areas of civil law. Volunteer attorneys take cases, represent clients, and staff the Project's office and clinics. Attorneys and law student volunteers coordinate clinics, research, write, and prepare administrative hearings, and help recruit more volunteers.

### **Senior Citizens Legal Services**

Senior Citizens Legal Services (SCLS) opened its first office in 1972 because the elderly were unable to obtain legal aid services that addressed their unique problems. Senior community activists believed that the elderly needed and deserved a program designed to meet their special needs.

- SCLS offers a [summer internship program](#) for first and second-year law students

### **Sustainable Economies Law Center**

Sustainable Economies Law Center cultivates a new legal landscape that supports community resilience and grassroots economic empowerment. They provide essential legal tools including: education, research, advice, and advocacy, so communities everywhere can develop their own sustainable sources of food, housing, energy, jobs, and other vital aspects of a thriving community.

### **Western Center on Law & Poverty**

Western Center on Law & Poverty fights for justice and system-wide change to secure housing, health care, racial justice, and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. They attain real-world, policy solutions for their clients through litigation, legislative and policy advocacy, and technical assistance and legal support for the state's legal aid programs.

## *Civil rights*

### [Equal Justice Society](#)

Equal Justice Society (EJS) is a national civil rights legal organization working to fully restore the constitutional protections of the Fourteenth Amendment by replacing the Intent Doctrine with a Disparate Impact standard that addresses contemporary forms of racism. EJS conducts advocacy in the following program areas: Criminal Justice, School Discipline/School-to-Prison Pipeline, Environmental Justice, Local Services Divide, Race-conscious Remedies, and Transit Justice. They also manage several coalitions and sign on to legal and policy initiatives or join as co-counsel onto cases that relate to broader issues of civil rights, including immigrants' rights and marriage equality.

## *Criminal*

### [#cut50](#)

#cut50, an initiative of [The Dream Corps](#), is a national bipartisan effort to reduce the number of people in prisons and jails while making our communities safer. Their campaigns are led by people who have been directly impacted by the justice system and want to create change.

### [Fresh Lifelines for Youth \(FLY\)](#)

FLY is dedicated to breaking the cycle of violence, crime, and incarceration of teens. FLY's unique programs include legal education, leadership training, and one-on-one mentoring. For one-tenth the cost of incarceration, FLY provides youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and those most at risk, with the motivation and support to stay out of trouble with the law, get engaged in school, and begin to change their lives.

### [UnCommon Law](#)

UnCommon Law is a small nonprofit law firm based in Oakland, California. They provide counseling and legal representation for California prisoners serving life terms with the possibility of parole. They also provide training for prisoners, family members, attorneys, law students, and other advocates in order to improve the overall quality of representation prisoners receive in their parole hearings.

## *Disability*

### **Disability Rights California**

Disability Rights California (DRC) is the designated protection and advocacy system in California. They advocate for people with disabilities through several programs that use many different strategies, including individual legal advice or representation, support for self-advocacy, outreach and education, investigations, policy advocacy, and impact litigation.

## *Domestic Violence*

### **Family Violence Appellate Project (FVAP)**

FVAP is the only nonprofit in California dedicated to helping domestic survivors and their children by appealing dangerous trial court decisions on their behalf, for free. They help survivors of abuse get the safety and justice they deserve.

## *Environmental*

### **The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment**

The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE) is a national environmental justice organization providing legal, organizing, and technical assistance to grassroots groups in low-income communities and communities of color.

### **Communities for a Better Environment**

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) is one of the preeminent environmental justice organizations in the nation. The mission of CBE is to build people's power in California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments.

### **Earthjustice**

Earthjustice is a nonprofit environmental law organization based in San Francisco, CA. They wield the power of law and the strength of partnership to preserve the wild, fight for healthy communities, and to advance clean energy to promote a healthy climate.

### **Environmental Law Foundation**

Environmental Law Foundation's (ELF) work consistently improves environmental quality for those most at risk by providing access to information, strategies and enforcement of environmental, toxics, and community right-to-know laws.

- ELF offers a [summer internship program](#) for current law students

### **Natural Resources Defense Council**

In 1970, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) became America's first litigation-focused nonprofit dedicated to making dirty industries clean up their pollution. Since then, their attorneys have been at the forefront of protecting our nation's air, land, water, and wildlife. Their litigation attorneys focus on the following areas: environmental justice, air and water pollution, public health, and marine mammal protection.

### **Peninsula Open Space Trust**

Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) protects and cares for open space, farms and parkland in and around Silicon Valley. Since POST's founding in 1977, they have protected more than 75,000 acres of permanent open space, farms and parkland in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.

### **Rainforest Action Network**

Rainforest Action Network (RAN) preserves forests, protects the climate and upholds human rights by challenging corporate power and systemic injustice through frontline partnerships and strategic campaigns.

### **Sierra Club**

Founded by legendary conservationist John Muir in 1892, the Sierra Club is now the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization with three million members and supporters.

### **Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition**

Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) is a diverse organization engaged in research, advocacy, and grassroots organizing to promote human health and environmental justice in response to the rapid growth of the high-tech industry.

### **Stanford Environmental Law Clinic**

Clinic students work on a mix of litigation and policy matters at the interface of law, science, and policy. The clinic's clients range from national groups like the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Ocean Conservancy to regional and local groups like Center for Biological Diversity, Monterey Coastkeeper, the Grand Canyon Trust and the Pit River Tribe. As part of their casework in the clinic, students help screen new matters and potential clients; formulate strategies; research and develop factual and legal issues; and prosecute administrative and litigation proceedings.

- Only Stanford law students may take clinic during the academic year, but students at other law schools may apply for summer positions.

### ***Housing***

#### **California Housing Consortium**

The California Housing Consortium is a non-partisan advocate for the production and preservation of housing affordable to low and moderate-income Californians.

#### **Eviction Defense Collaborative**

The Eviction Defense Collaborative is the principal organization in San Francisco helping low-income tenants respond to eviction lawsuits. Each year they provide emergency legal services and rental assistance to over 5,000 tenants in San Francisco.

#### **HomeBase**

HomeBase is a nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to the social problem of homelessness. Their mission is to end homelessness, prevent its recurrence, and decrease its effect on communities. They work on the state and national level to support communities in implementing responses to homelessness while fostering collaboration in addressing the political and economic causes of homelessness.

#### **Homeless Action Center**

The Homeless Action Center (HAC) provides free legal assistance with a range of public benefits programs, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Medi-Cal, CalWorks, Cal-Fresh (food stamps), General Assistance (GA), and Cash Assistance Programs for Immigrants (CAPI). They also provide informal advice and referrals for non-benefits related legal issues.

## [Housing & Economic Rights Advocates](#)

Housing & Economic Rights Advocates (HERA) is a California statewide, nonprofit legal service and advocacy organization dedicated to helping Californians, particularly those most vulnerable, build a safe, sound financial future, free of discrimination and economic abuses, in all aspects of household financial concerns. They provide free legal services, consumer workshops, training for professionals and community organizing support, create innovative solutions and engage in policy work locally, statewide, and nationally.

## [Project Sentinel](#)

Project Sentinel assists individuals with housing problems such as discrimination, mortgage foreclosure, and delinquency, rental issues including repairs, deposits, privacy, dispute resolution, home buyer education, post purchase education, and reverse mortgages.

## *Immigration*

### [Asian Law Alliance](#)

Over the past 25 years as a nonprofit corporation, the Asian Law Alliance has helped tens of thousands of people in obtaining decent housing, justice in the immigration process, and access to basic human and legal rights. Today, Asian/Pacific Islanders continue to be denied fundamental rights. ALA continues to keep its doors open for those individuals who are limited in English, who do not understand the legal system, who cannot afford legal fees and who face the reality of discrimination.

### [Asian Law Caucus](#)

Asian Law Caucus is the nation's first legal and civil rights organization serving the low-income Asian Pacific American communities. Advancing Justice – ALC focuses on housing rights, immigration and immigrants' rights, labor and employment issues, student advocacy (ASPIRE), civil rights and hate violence, national security, and criminal justice reform. As a founding affiliate of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the organization also helps to set national policies in affirmative action, voting rights, Census and language rights.

### **Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County**

The Immigration and Legal Services (ILS) of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County was established in 1976 in response to the growing number of immigrants moving to the Bay Area. Program staff is committed to helping individuals understand the immigration law and to know their rights under the law. The program provides a broad range of immigration counseling and representation to immigrants and their families.

### **CLINIC**

Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., (CLINIC) promotes the dignity and protects the rights of immigrants in partnership with a dedicated network of Catholic and community legal immigration programs.

### **Freedom for Immigrants**

Freedom for Immigrants, formerly CIVIC, is devoted to abolishing immigration detention, while ending the isolation of people currently suffering in this profit-driven system. Freedom for Immigrants helped draft and co-sponsor two key legislative measures in the state that together significantly impact immigrant prisons. They document, categorize, and verify to the extent possible human and civil rights abuses in immigrant prisons and jails across the country on a daily basis and use the data and stories gathered to engage in advocacy to address rights violations. This information is provided to Congress, the media, and allied organizations when appropriate. They also created and manage the National Immigration Detention Hotline.

### **Immigrant Legal Services of the Central Coast**

Immigrant Legal Services of the Central Coast is a nonprofit legal services organization based in Watsonville, California, aimed at providing affordable, high-quality immigration legal services to residents of California's central coast, primarily Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties and surrounding areas. Their attorneys represent clients and offer advice and information in a variety of immigration-related matters, including detention and deportation cases, as well as naturalization and many types of visa applications.

### **Immigration Center for Women and Children**

The Immigration Center for Women and Children (ICWC) is a nonprofit legal organization providing affordable immigration services to underrepresented immigrants in California. ICWC strives to provide security and stability for children who are abused, abandoned or neglected and for immigrants who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes.

### **International Institute of the Bay Area**

The International Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA) provides high-quality immigration legal services, education, and civic engagement opportunities to immigrants, refugees, and their families as they join and contribute to the community.

### **Kids in Need of Defense**

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) protects unaccompanied children who enter the U.S. immigration system alone to ensure that no child appears in court without an attorney. KIND also works with the White House, Capitol Hill, and federal agencies to help ensure that unaccompanied children receive fair and appropriate treatment while in the U.S. immigration system.

### **La Raza Centro Legal**

La Raza Centro Legal is a community-based legal organization dedicated to empowering Latino, immigrant and low-income communities in the Mission and throughout the Bay Area, advocating for their civil and human rights.

### **SIREN**

SIREN's mission is to empower low-income immigrants and refugees through community education and organizing, leadership development, policy advocacy and legal services. SIREN is unique among immigrant rights organizations in that it combines policy work, community organizing, and direct services. They provide free weekly clinics and walk-in consultations.

### ***Welfare***

### **Dependency Advocacy Center**

Dependency Advocacy Center provides free legal services to indigent parents and children involved in Santa Clara County's child welfare system.