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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Public Interest and Social Justice Law Board Summer Grants

Q1: Who is eligible to apply for the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Board Summer Grants (grants)?

A1: Any 1L, 2L, or 3L (part time), and returning LLM's can apply for the grants.

Q2: How does the Law Board prioritize allocation of summer grant funds?

A2: The School will award grants in six different categories: the [Richard P. and Madé S. Berg Social Justice Public Interest Summer Grants](#), the [Justice John Paul Stevens Fellowship](#), the [Public Interest Social Justice Law Board Summer Grants](#), the [LGBT Legal Issues Summer Grant](#), the [Supriya Bhat Public Defender Summer Grant](#), and the [Harry and Jean Gluck Social Justice Law Fellowship](#). The priorities vary by category. Please see the descriptions for each type of grant or fellowship for more detailed information. As a general rule, due to restrictions placed on particular types of grants or fellowships, there is more money available to fund civil work than criminal work.

Q3: What types of positions do the grants fund?

A3: To qualify for a grant, applicants must have arranged a full-time summer law position with a qualifying organization before the application deadline. Non-profit organizations with a public service or social justice mission qualify. Government offices that focus on civil public interest work qualify, but judicial externships do not. Students who have arranged jobs with a public defender office or a district attorney office qualify for some types of grants, but not for others.

Q4: How much are the grants worth?

A4: The amount varies each year based on available funds. Last year, the grants ranged from a low end of \$1000 to a high end of \$7500. For summer 2018, the Board hopes to be able to fund all grants for civil jobs at \$5000 per student and all grants for criminal jobs at a minimum of \$3000.

Q5: Are the funds received from the grants taxable?

A5: Yes. Public Interest and Social Justice Law Board Summer Grants are considered fellowship income by the IRS. It is therefore not subject to tax withholding and is paid in full to recipients. Santa Clara University does not issue a form 1099---MISC for the tax year to report your Summer Grant as income, you should consider your award notification as your official documentation of the receipt of this funding.

Your stipend must be reported on your federal and state tax forms if you are required to file taxes. If you have questions, please consult a tax advisor about the taxability of Summer Grant funding and refer to IRS Topic 421 regarding scholarships and fellowship stipends.

Q6: How are the grants funded?

A6: The funding comes from a combination of endowment income, gifts from various sources, and other fundraising efforts. In 2017, Professor Emeritus Richard Berg and his wife Madé made a generous donation to the Law School to create the Richard P. and Madé S. Berg Social Justice Public Interest Endowment Fund. Beginning in summer 2018, many of our summer grants will be awarded in their names.

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### Public Interest and Social Justice Law Board Summer Grants

Q7: How many grants are available?

A7: The number of grants available depends on the amount of money raised each year, as well as income earned from various endowment funds. Typically, the school awards a total of 20-25 grants and fellowships each summer.

Q8: How do I find a job that will qualify?

A8: Public Interest Law Career Services (PILCS) can help you get started. Each fall, PILCS holds a Public Interest Career Fair on campus. Each February Public Interest Public Sector (PIPS) Day features several hundred public interests employers who look for law students for summer work (as well as after graduation). Check with your professors as well as with the Office of Career Management about public interest work. See [www.pic.org](http://www.pic.org) and [www.pslawnet.org](http://www.pslawnet.org) for additional opportunities.

Q9: Can I get academic credit for the work experience?

A9: No. Students who expect to receive academic credit for their work are not eligible for grants or fellowships.

Q10: Can I receive this grant and a grant from another organization in the same summer?

A10: Yes, as long as the combined grants do not exceed \$5,000.

Q11: Can I receive a grant for more than one summer?

A11: Yes students may apply and receive summer grants more than once.

Q12: Can students from other law schools apply for the grants?

A12: No, the grants are limited to Santa Clara Law students.

Q13: What should I do if I am not sure if my job "fits" into the guidelines for the grant?

A13: When in doubt, there is no harm in applying. The application is fairly straightforward. Most students apply and let the grant review committee decide whether the job fits the guidelines.

Q14: Can I do my work for the grant at the Katherine and George Alexander Community Law Clinic or the Northern California Innocence Project?

A14: In principle, yes. However, as noted in response to question 9, students who expect to receive academic credit are not eligible for grants or fellowships. Moreover, the Board will generally give higher priority to students who work for organizations that are not so closely affiliated with Santa Clara Law.

Q15: How many hours or weeks are required for the full-time fellowship?

A15: Thirty-five to forty hours per week (depending on what is considered full-time at the placement) for ten weeks.

Q16: Do I have to write a follow-up paper upon completion of my summer work?

A16: Yes. Please prepare a 1-2 page memorandum upon completion of your summer work. The memo should reflect upon your experience. The memo is due during the first week of class in fall semester. Memos should be submitted by e-mail to [socialjustice@scu.edu](mailto:socialjustice@scu.edu).

Q17: Do the hours I work for the grant count toward the Pro Bono awards hours or the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate hours?

A17: The hours do not count towards the Pro Bono Award or the Certificate's public service hours. The hours worked will count toward the practicum requirement for the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate.

Q18: Do I have to stay in the Bay Area or can I go elsewhere to do the grant work?

A18: You can go anywhere in the world!

Q19: I have interviewed with a potential placement and anticipate an offer for a summer internship soon. The grant deadline is today. What should I do?

A19: You may submit a summer grant application and note on the application that the offer for summer placement is not yet confirmed. You must provide complete information about the organization in the application. The Law Board will first consider grant applications with secured placements. Thereafter, and only if sufficient funds are available, the Law Board will consider applications with unconfirmed placements.

Q20: I have interviewed with a potential placement and was advised that they might have a position if I can obtain funding. What should I do?

A20: You may submit a summer grant application and note on the application that the offer for summer placement is not yet confirmed due to funding contingencies. Discuss with the hiring manager the potential money that is available to you through this grant and that your internship can be contingent upon receiving these grant funds. You must provide complete information about the organization in the application. The Law Board will first consider grant applications with secured placements. Thereafter, and only if sufficient funds are available, the Law Board will consider applications with unconfirmed contingent placements.

Q21: When are the applications due? How do I apply?

A21: The deadline for the Stevens Fellowship is noon on Monday, March 5, 2018. The deadline for all other summer grants is 5:00 PM on Monday, March 26, 2018. There is a single **application form** (add link) for all the different categories of grants and fellowships.