
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?

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

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

A2: 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 arrange a full-time summer law position with a qualifying organization. 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 arrange 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 of \$1000 to a high of \$7500. For summer 2019, the Board hopes to be able to fund grants for civil jobs at \$5000 per student and grants for criminal jobs at a minimum of \$3000.

Q5: Are the funds received from the grants taxable?

A5: Yes. A grant is considered fellowship income by the IRS. It is 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. Many summer grants will be awarded in their names.

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: Join and follow the Center for Social Justice Facebook page. Check with your professors and with the Office of Career Management about public interest work. See psjd.org, idealist.org and equaljustice.org for additional opportunities.

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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: Yes, but as noted in the response to question 9, only if you do not enroll for academic credit in connection with that work.

Q15: How many hours or weeks of work are required?

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 submit anything upon completion of my summer work?

A16: No, but the law school would appreciate any positive or constructive feedback on the position and on the grant application process. Submit to gneustadter@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 School will first consider grant applications with secured placements. Thereafter, and only if sufficient funds are available, the Law School will consider applications with unconfirmed placements.

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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 School will first consider grant applications with secured placements. Thereafter, and only if sufficient funds are available, the Law School will consider applications with unconfirmed contingent placements.

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

A21: The deadline for all grant applications is 5:00 PM on Monday, March 25, 2019. There is a single [application form](#) for all the different categories of grants. You may apply for a grant or fellowship from any, some, or all of the grants identified in A2, using only one application. Do not submit multiple applications.

Q22: Whom should I contact with additional questions or concerns?

A22: Professor Gary Neustadter: Charney Hall 248 or (408) 554-4378 or gneustadter@scu.edu.