



LEGAL INTERN

Program Dates and Hours: August 31, 2026, to November 20, 2026, for 10 hours/week

Application Due: May 21, 2026

ABOUT THE LAW CENTER:

Founded in 1989, the National Homelessness Law Center is a team of attorneys and advocates dedicated to advancing federal, state and local policies to prevent and end homelessness while fiercely defending the rights of all unhoused persons. We are looking for passionate individuals compelled by the national housing crisis and energized by our vision of housing as a human right and dismantling structural racism as we seek to end homelessness. Our work, in collaboration with national, state, and local partners, has overturned laws that criminalize homelessness, protected access to affordable housing, helped unhoused children return to school, and shifted public narratives about homelessness towards greater empathy.

The Law Center's areas of legal concentration include:

- Protecting the civil and human rights of homeless persons, including combating the criminalization of homelessness, and promoting Homeless Bills of Rights and constructive solutions to homelessness.
- Utilizing human rights standards to grow the domestic movement for the human right to housing and to fight practices and laws that punish homeless persons for ordinary, life-sustaining activities.
- Increasing affordable housing resources by maximizing the transfer of surplus federal properties to homeless service providers.
- Ensuring homeless children's access to education by implementing civil rights provisions in the McKinney-Vento Act.

Our core conviction is that everyone should have the housing and supportive services they need to thrive, and that no one should be punished for being unable to afford rent. We view homelessness through a structural and anti-racist lens, acknowledging that Black individuals, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, disabled individuals, and individuals experiencing interpersonal violence are disproportionately impacted. We understand that effectively addressing homelessness requires confronting the structural racism and intersecting inequities at its roots. We are immensely proud of our skilled 17-person team and our extensive network of volunteer attorneys. For more information, explore our website: www.homelesslaw.org.

OVERVIEW OF POSITION:

The Law Center is looking to host 2 legal interns this fall. Legal interns are given the opportunity to work in several program areas, depending on the needs of the Law Center and the student's interest. Projects include working on impact litigation, legislative and administrative advocacy, assisting with factual investigations, preparing outreach materials, and legal research.



For fall 2026, the Law Center's priority areas for intern engagement will be to work on either:

- 1) Legal and policy strategies to halt the use of detention camps for unhoused persons.
- 2) Legal and policy strategies to address the harmful application of nuisance and other laws against organizations serving unhoused persons.

*Projects are subject to change depending on current opportunities and needs.

The interns will be supervised by a Law & Policy Director and additional program benefits may include:

- Matching with a staff attorney mentor to collaborate with and shadow as available.
- Networking opportunities and discussions such as lunch & learns with movement leaders.
- Invitation to the Law Center's Human Right to Housing Awards in October 2026.

Our goal is to provide a rich internship experience that develops critical legal skills, substantive legal knowledge, and a deeper understanding of homelessness and intersectional issues.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Completion of at least one year of law school from an accredited institution by fall 2026.
- Excellent legal research, written and oral communication, and analytical skills.
- Demonstrated commitment to and/or background working with homelessness, housing, social justice, or poverty-related programs strongly preferred.
- Available 10 hours per week for 12 weeks (08/31/2026 to 11/20/2026).
- Prior experience at a non-profit organization is a plus but not required.
- Legislative or policy experience (local, state, or federal) is a plus but not required.

COMPENSATION:

For legal interns, the Law Center offers \$20/hour. If the student comes with their own external funding that is equivalent or more than \$20/hour, the Law Center will not provide an additional stipend. If the student comes with their own external funding that is less than \$20/hour, the Law Center will cover any difference to ensure the student is compensated at \$20/hour.

Fall 2026 legal interns have temporary, non-exempt roles from Monday, August 31, 2026, to Friday, November 20, 2026, for 10 hours/week. There is no expectation of renewal or continued employment beyond that time.

LOCATION:

The internship can be fully remote, hybrid, or in-person at the Law Center's headquarters in Washington, DC. We can only host fully remote interns if they reside in one of the following states: AZ, DC, MD, MO, NY, PA, TX, VA, WA. **Please indicate in your cover letter where you are located and if you plan to work remotely, hybrid,**



or in-person. If you choose hybrid or in-person in DC, you are welcome to attend the Law Center’s annual Human Right to Housing Awards and coalition-building forum in October 2026.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

To apply, please send your cover letter, resume, and a writing sample (any high-quality writing sample is acceptable; a legal writing sample is not required) to HR@homelesslaw.org with the subject line “2026 Legal Internship, Last Name, First Name”. Please indicate in your cover letter where you are located and if you plan to work remotely, hybrid, or in-person. **Applications are due by May 21, 2026.** Incomplete applications will not be considered. Due to the high volume of applications, no phone calls, please.

AI USAGE

The Law Center does not knowingly use AI tools to screen applications or make hiring decisions. Likewise, in order to assess candidates’ authentic and unique skills, we discourage the use of AI tools to generate cover letters or answer interview questions verbatim.

EEO Statement

The Law Center is an equal opportunity employer. The Law Center values an inclusive, diverse workplace and does not unlawfully discriminate on any basis prohibited by law. The Law Center encourages applications from all interested persons of any race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, personal appearance, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, union activities, or any other legally protected status.