

Louisiana Capital Assistance Center – Summer 2018 Law Clerks

The Louisiana Capital Assistance Center is soliciting applications for summer law clerks. The LCAC represents indigent defendants in capital cases – primarily at trial, but also on direct appeal, in state post-conviction and in federal habeas proceedings. We represent clients in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and in federal cases. In recent years, the LCAC has been at the cutting edge of capital defense litigation, particularly in areas such as prosecutorial misconduct, racial and religious discrimination, adequate indigent defense funding and the capital prosecution of those with serious mental impairments. In the context of its casework, the LCAC pursues impact litigation in critical areas so as to advance the position of indigent capital defendants more generally. The LCAC emphasizes excellence and creativity in capital practice as well as making the client the center of all efforts in the case.

Summer law clerks assist staff attorneys and mitigation specialists in all aspects of our work. Depending on what needs to be done in our cases at a given time, interns should expect to do several of the following tasks while they are at LCAC:

- locate, obtain, organize and process relevant records and other documents
- conduct legal research and draft pleadings
- read and digest transcripts
- gather and analyze statistical data
- conduct social science and other research
- monitor court proceedings
- participate in case strategy sessions
- visit and interview clients
- locate and interview witnesses
- assist in locating and preparing expert witnesses

As many of LCAC's clients are in prisons or jails outside of New Orleans, our interns are often asked to travel with attorneys, investigators, and other interns throughout Louisiana and occasionally into Texas, Mississippi, and Florida.

During the summer, the LCAC provides interns with a multiple-day orientation and training program. Interns gain substantive background knowledge on LCAC's work, including the legal and procedural aspects of death penalty trial and appellate processes. Additional training sessions include brown-bag lunchtime talks with senior staff from the LCAC and other organizations throughout the summer.

Applicants for the summer program should send the following materials to Gabe Newland, at gnewland@thejusticecenter.org, with "Summer Law Clerk Application" in the subject line:

- A resume
- A cover letter detailing their interest in capital defense work
- A writing sample (a non-legal writing sample is acceptable)

- Two references

Applicants are encouraged to apply early as applications are considered on a rolling basis. Law students in our summer program often receive work study or other financial support from their schools. Although LCAC pays for business related travel expenses, we are generally unable to provide financial assistance to our interns.