



Explore the Possibilities: Public Interest Law Program for Law Students

Saturday, October 16, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87554899742?pwd=Q3J3MUV6RUI6Szd2SHRJTzFvTG5jZz09>

AGENDA

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Intro & Opening Session

A Conversation on Access to Justice

Public interest lawyers are uniquely positioned to make a real difference in the lives of people, families and communities in need. Hear from an attorney dedicated to helping others reflect on what access to justice means, the times our community is in today, and the biggest challenges we face.

- Sergio Rodriguez, Illinois Federal Defender

10:35 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:

The Basics: What You Need to Know to Get Started – Room 590

Deepen your understanding of what's involved in pursuing a career in public interest law. A panel will review opportunities in public interest law, ways to connect with the public interest law community, and discuss the basics of applying for internships, externships and fellowships.

Moderator: Alison Curran Smith, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law

- Clarissa Gaff, Land of Lincoln Legal Aid
- Debi Filipovich Martin, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
- Kimberly Washington, Ascend Justice
- Matthew Jannusch, Cook County States Attorney

Next Steps: Preparing for Post-Graduate Opportunities

Panelists from different sections of the public interest law community discuss how to stand out as an intern, extern and fellow, and what you can be doing now to strengthen your postgraduate applications. Hear suggestions for cover letters, resumes and interviewing, and strategies for making the most of the experience once you secure one of these positions.

Moderator: Jacqueline Ross, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

- Blair Mills, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
- Emily Wilson, Equip for Equality
- Kate Shank, Legal Aid Chicago
- Lee VanderLinden, National Immigrant Justice Center

11:35 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. *Hot Topics in Social Justice*

Public interest lawyers are often at the forefront of social justice issues. Hear from an attorney talk about current issues and find out how law students can get more involved.

- Latasha Barnes, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions:

Plotting Your Government Career Path

Hear advice from hiring representatives from city, state and federal government offices, and review specific techniques for building a resume and applying for government jobs.

Moderator: Michelle Vodenik, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law

- Albert Berry, United States Attorneys' Offices
- Cynthia Erno, City of Chicago Civilian Office of Police Accountability
- LaShawn Eddings Levesque, Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- Angela Kilpatrick, Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender
- Thor Inouye, Illinois Attorney General's Office
- Genevieve Frank, St. Louis County Counselor's Office

Innovative Ways to Fill the Justice Gap

There is a huge gap between the legal needs of low-income people and the capacity of legal services to meet those needs. Learn about unique and innovative approaches attorneys have taken to address legal needs.

Moderator: Jocelyn Brennan-Witzel, Saint Louis University School of Law

- Lam Nguyen Ho, Beyond Legal Aid
- Missy Greathouse, Dispute Resolution Institute
- Ruth Edwards Legal Council for Health Justice
- Samoane Williams, Justice Entrepreneurs Project