

USD School of Law

Pre-Law Internship Program

Background and Objectives

Celebrating 60 years of alumni success, the University of San Diego (USD) School of Law is recognized for the excellence of its faculty, depth of its curriculum, and strength of its clinical programs. Each year, USD School of Law educates approximately 900 Juris Doctor and graduate law students from throughout the United States and around the world, though many of our students come from the San Diego region. The law school is best known for its offerings in the areas of business and corporate law, constitutional law, intellectual property, international and comparative law, public interest and taxation.

USD School of Law has established an unpaid internship program (the Program) for undergraduate students considering pursuing a legal education upon graduation. The Program is intended to introduce these undergraduate students to the USD School of Law as well as public service through the legal profession.

Program Details

The Program will take up to five undergraduate students from USD and UCSD at a time. Interns will be assigned to one or more of the following public interest centers at the USD School of Law:

- [The Children's Advocacy Institute](#) (CAI): CAI is one of the nation's premiere academic, research, and advocacy organizations working to improve the lives of children and youth, with special emphasis on improving the child protection and foster care systems and enhancing resources that are available to youth aging out of foster care.
- [The Center for Public Interest Law](#) (CPIL): CPIL serves as an academic center of research and advocacy in regulatory and public interest law. CPIL focuses its efforts on the study of an extremely powerful, yet often overlooked, level of government: state regulatory agencies. Under the supervision of experienced public interest attorneys and advocates, CPIL law student interns study California agencies that regulate business, professions, and trades.
- [The Energy Policy Initiatives Center](#) (EPIC): EPIC is a non-profit academic and research center that studies energy policy issues affecting the San Diego region and California. EPIC integrates research and analysis, law school study, and public education, and serves as a source of legal and policy expertise and information in the development of sustainable solutions that meet our future energy needs.

Interns in the Program will work with center personnel and law students on a variety of research projects and assist with clerical and other tasks as assigned. Projects may involve helping staff conduct research for reports, reviewing and analyzing pending state and federal legislation and drafting letters of support or opposition for center staff consideration, identifying and comparing each state's laws on certain center-related topics, and reviewing regulatory proposals by state or federal agencies and preparing related materials. Once accepted to the Program, students will coordinate their schedules with the appropriate center director. The Program will require a commitment of no more than [10] hours per week.

While in the Program, interns will be able to attend USD School of Law events, have the opportunity to observe at least one law school class, and interact with the school's professors, students and administrators.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for USD's Program, applicants must

- have a genuine interest in pursuing a legal education;
- be a junior or senior; and
- be in good academic standing.

In order to be eligible for academic credit through the Local Internship Research Program of UCSD's Department of Political Science, applicants must have:

- passed at least 90 units;
- a 2.5 minimum cumulative GPA overall;
- a GPA of 3.0 or higher in political science;
- taken POLI 30; and
- taken at least two upper-division political science courses.

Application

Applications should be submitted via email to:

- Ariane Parkes, Undergraduate Student Affairs Coordinator, UCSD Dept of Political Science at aparkes@ucsd.edu; and
- Elisa Weichel, Administrative Director and Staff Attorney at CAI at eweichel@sandiego.edu.

Applications should include a cover letter, the completed application form, a transcript, a resume, and a letter of recommendation from a professor or teaching assistant at UCSD.

The cover letter should explain your interest in the internship, highlight your qualifications for this specific position, and provide information about any experience that makes you a particularly good candidate. We strongly encourage you to write a letter that reflects well on you as a young professional that the lawyers and law students at the USD School of Law will want to bring into their projects.

For the application form press the back button and click on the link to the application.

The resume should follow a standard format.