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Semester Legal Extern / Practicum, Philadelphia (Spring 2017)

The Education Law Center – Pennsylvania invites 2Ls and 3Ls to apply for semester legal externships or practicum in its Philadelphia office. Applicants should be committed to education access for all students, particularly vulnerable populations.

The Education Law Center’s mission is to ensure access to a quality public education for all children in Pennsylvania. We pursue this mission through litigation and policy advocacy on behalf of the most vulnerable students — children living in poverty, children of color, children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, children with disabilities, English Language Learners, LGBTQ students, and children experiencing homelessness. ELC has three priority program areas which often intersect: ensuring equal access to school, advocating for fair school funding, and dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

ELC engages an array of strategies to fulfill our mission including legislative advocacy, impact litigation, community engagement, and direct representation. Our work includes direct client contact (intake and fact investigation), case development (research and writing), preparation and assistance with formal representation in state and federal court (including special education, school discipline and other education matters, both individual and class action matters), and state level legislative and administrative advocacy (strategic community engagement and administrative complaints).

Semester extern responsibilities include:

- Supporting ELC’s direct representation work through handling intake calls with clients
- Supporting ELC’s litigation and legislative advocacy through legal research and writing
- Providing other support as needed and observing attorneys in various aspects of their work

Qualified applicants should:

- Have strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong analytical, critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Strong legal research and writing skills
- Commitment to social justice

Fluency in Spanish, an understanding of special education law, and/or experience working with diverse communities are valued but not required qualifications.

ELC does not have the capacity to pay externs, but supports students applying for funding from other sources or for course credit.

Applicants should send materials to Kristina Moon (kmoon@elc-pa.org) by January 20, 2017, though applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

The Education Law Center values diversity and an inclusive culture. ELC is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, or status with regard to public assistance.

Ensuring that all of Pennsylvania’s children have equal access to a quality public education.