

LEGAL INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY



Applications for Fall/Spring legal internships are accepted on a rolling basis until positions are filled.

The Indian Law Resource Center's Washington, D.C office accepts one intern every fall and spring semesters; the application period is open until positions are filled. This position is unpaid. Knowledge of international and/or federal Indian law and Spanish language skills are preferred but not required. Internships are available for current law school students or alumni. Interns will assist staff attorneys with legal projects, such as:

1. Multilateral Development Banks: Working to encourage responsible lending by holding multilateral development banks responsible for the impacts of their projects on indigenous peoples and the environment. This project will involve research on affected communities and development projects, preparation of documents concerning bank policies, and participation in meetings with bank officials and civil society organizations.
2. Strengthening Indigenous Rights in the Inter-American Human Rights System: Providing legal expertise and working with OAS agencies in the promotion of indigenous rights. Interns assist the Center with work at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, specifically thematic hearings, precautionary measures, contentious cases, and special reports on indigenous issues, and follow other developments that are relevant to indigenous peoples. Work may include assisting in the development of the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including research and writing memoranda on draft articles under consideration, and assisting indigenous delegations in negotiation sessions.
3. Guatemala: We are litigating a major case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to defend the land, natural resources, self-government and cultural rights of Maya Q'eqchi' communities under threat from nickel mining and protected areas. Interns may assist with aspects of the proceedings before the Commission, including legal research, drafting briefs, compiling and reviewing evidence, preparing for related hearings, and translation.
4. Handbook for Conservationists: Working to close the knowledge gap between conservationists American Indian/Alaska Native villages in the United States. Interns may assist with research and writing on a handbook that will provide general guidance to conservation professionals, lawyers, funders, students, and others on how to work effectively with Indian nations or on Native lands.
5. Law Reform: Working to improve the unjust and outmoded system of federal law concerning Indian and Alaska Native nations. Our long-term goal is to reform—through political, judicial, and administrative processes—the present discriminatory laws affecting Native nations in the United States. Interns may assist with research and writing and provide support for briefings and events.
6. Safe Women, Strong Nations: Working to end violence against indigenous women and girls by raising awareness to gain strong legal action in the United States, providing legal advice to Indian nations and organizations, and increasing tribal capacity to prevent violence on tribal lands. Interns may assist with research and writing, meetings and presentations, and use of social media as an advocacy tool to raise awareness.
7. World Conference Follow-Up: In September 2014, indigenous peoples achieved important commitments by the UN and member states at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Now, work is underway to secure action in the UN that will create an effective implementing and monitoring body by the UN, new rules for participation of indigenous governments in the UN, and actions to combat violence against indigenous women.

To submit your application, please send your resume, cover letter, and a short writing sample to dcoffice@indianlaw.org. We are looking for a minimum commitment of 20 hours per week, but we are flexible; please identify the time you have available.

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The Indian Law Resource Center is a non-profit law and advocacy organization established and directed by Native American attorneys. We provide legal assistance to indigenous peoples in the Americas working to protect their lands, resources, environment, cultural heritage, and to realize their human rights. Our principle goal is the preservation and well-being of indigenous nations. For further information see www.indianlaw.org.