



Volunteer/Internship Opportunity

The Public Justice Center (PJC) seeks motivated students for volunteer opportunities in its prisoners' rights project. Established in 1985, the PJC is a statewide non-profit civil rights and poverty law organization based in downtown Baltimore, Maryland. The PJC's prisoners' rights project advocates on behalf of prisoners and pre-trial detainees in the Baltimore City Detention Center ("BCDC" or "the jail"). Volunteer opportunities include:

- Client interviewing & advocacy
- Medical records review
- Grant research & writing assistance
- Public education outreach

Client interviewing & advocacy. Volunteers interview clients and provide assistance to help ensure adequate medical care and, in the long term, improve public health. Interns who take part in this exciting project will have the opportunity to practice client interviewing techniques, develop investigative and advocacy skills, learn more about common chronic illnesses, read medical records, and learn some substantive law. Interns will be responsible for: conducting client interviews at BCDC facilities; factual investigation; advocacy on behalf of clients; and general case management. Knowledge or interest in health care or medicine is needed, in light of the large numbers of prisoners with health care needs. It is preferable that interns be able to commit to a minimum of 4-5 hours per week.

Medical records review. In furtherance of its advocacy, the PJC can use the help of experienced students to read and summarize our clients' medical records. Our need for this assistance is sporadic so volunteers need only to commit to a few hours per month. One-time volunteers are also encouraged to participate in this activity.

Grant research & writing assistance. Incarcerated patients' serious medical needs are not being met in the jail. We desire assistance in locating possible funds to support an effort to enlighten, engage, and mobilize medical and health university programs. Grant research for funding for the overall prisoners' rights project is also needed and welcomed.

Public education. Correctional health issues are unknown to a vast majority of the public and even to health care professionals. Interested volunteers can assist the PJC by designing and implementing various public outreach efforts to educate medical professionals about the current crisis in correctional health care.

Interested students should contact Wendy Hess (hessw@publicjustice.org) for further information. Women, persons of color, persons with disabilities, and persons of all sexual orientations are encouraged to apply.

For more information about our organization, see www.publicjustice.org