



Legal Internships

Bayou City Waterkeeper in Houston, Texas, seeks legal interns every fall, spring, and summer. Legal interns report directly to Bayou City Waterkeeper's Legal Director.

Summer interns generally are full-time over 6-12 weeks. We adapt fall and spring internships to complement your academic schedule and meet requirements set by your university. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. To receive full consideration, please submit applications for fall by 4/15, spring by 10/15, and summer by 2/15.

About us

Bayou City Waterkeeper is a regional watershed organization based in Houston, Texas. For nearly 20 years, our mission has been to protect the bayous, creeks, bays, and wetlands within the [Lower Galveston Bay watershed](#) and empower the people who depend on them. Weaving together law and science, we work with local communities to build power, fill gaps in regulatory enforcement, and push back against irresponsible development. Learn more on [our website](#).

Why our work matters

Our largely coastal, low-lying region - comprising ten counties and over 4000 square miles - has lived through storm surges, high winds, and widespread flooding from intense storms over the last 15 years. Amplifying the worst effects of each disaster are longtime underinvestment in flood prevention, lax attitudes toward land use, and historic red-lining practices, which have driven over-development of ecologically-sensitive floodplains and exposed communities to unhealthy pollution. Despite our region being the country's most diverse, these problems already disproportionately affect low-income and BIPOC communities.

These factors offer us the potential to build a model of how a region may confront climate change, and not just survive, but thrive, over the next several decades. Each storm has brought with it opportunities to undo systemic harms and invest in our future. By restoring our natural systems, we can reduce flooding, buffer storm surges, improve water quality, and protect vulnerable communities - and position our watershed's communities to weather a changing climate into the 22nd century.

Commitment to justice, equity, diversity, & inclusion

The fight for equity and environmental justice run like threads through all our work. We are committed to showing up for the communities most affected by pollution and flooding, and within our organization, we value people of all experiences, backgrounds and perspectives and support and strive to cultivate leadership from the ground up.

Overview of internship

Through this internship, you will analyze legal issues affecting our water, wetlands, floodplains, and local communities, and you will learn more about working as a lawyer at a small non-profit organization, help make an impact on local environmental policy, and help advance our mission. You might be a great fit if you are self-motivated and eager to learn, a strategic thinker, like writing and are organized, and have a passion for advancing environmental and social justice. To the extent possible, we will tailor your work to your personal interests and longer-term career goals.

Primary responsibilities

Working with our Legal Director's supervision, legal interns will:

- Research legal issues, write memos, and help write legal briefs, comment letters, and blog posts;
- Attend court hearings, as well as meetings hosted by other non-profit organizations, community coalitions, and governmental entities;
- Assist with other legal-related tasks; and
- Have access to regular feedback, mentoring, and training opportunities.

Qualifications

Fall & Spring: 2L or 3L, preferably through your school's externship program. Hours to be determined based on your externship's requirements. Remote externships possible.

Summer: Rising 2L or 3L able to commit to 6-12 weeks of full-time work.

(If you are an international student, we cannot review your application unless you are part of a program that arranges your paperwork; we cannot arrange an H1B visa.)

Academic credit and funding

This internship is unpaid. We will work with you to meet any requirements for earning academic or pro bono credit and external funding.

Application materials

Please submit the following to Kristen at careers@bayoucitywaterkeeper.org:

- A 2-3 paragraph email explaining why you would like to intern with us
- Up-to-date resume
- Law school transcript (unofficial okay)

Thank you for your interest. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. To receive full consideration, please submit applications for the fall by 4/15, the spring by 10/15, and summer by 2/15. All interviews will be via Google Meet.