



Legal Internships (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Bayou City Waterkeeper (BCWK) in Houston, Texas, seeks legal interns every fall, spring, and summer. Legal interns report directly to BCWK's Senior Legal Director and Staff Attorney.

Overview of internship

Through this internship, you will analyze legal issues related to water, infrastructure, and climate injustices affecting communities across greater Houston and learn more about working as a lawyer at a small non-profit. In selecting interns, we look for people who are eager to learn, are action-oriented, and want to advance water justice across Houston and the Gulf South.

About Bayou City Waterkeeper

Bayou City Waterkeeper is a water justice organization working across the [Lower Galveston Bay watershed](#) that encompasses greater Houston, for more than two decades. With law and science, we work with local communities to build power, fill gaps in regulatory enforcement, and push back against water injustices and irresponsible development. Our key program areas are Clean Water, Protecting Wetlands, and Just Climate Transitions. Learn more on [our website](#).

Our values

In recognition of the complexities of our watershed, the challenges we face to protect our waters from the harms of urban development and industrial activities, and the importance of responding to communities' needs, our work is guided and informed by five values:

- **Interconnectivity:** Collaborate across disciplines and create multiple ways to engage
- **Fluidity:** Embrace movement and adaptability in our work
- **Bold action:** Have hard conversations, disrupt dysfunctional systems, create new frameworks, bring together unconventional allies, move data and research into action
- **Justice and equality:** Call out and act to undo inequities in our watershed
- **Regeneration:** Water is a site for healing, joy, celebration, reflection, and growth

Responsibilities

Working under the supervision of our legal staff's, legal interns:

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

Qualifications & Requirements

Candidates must have the following to be considered for the role:

- Summer: Rising 2L or 3L, able to commit to 10-12 weeks of full-time work
- Fall & Spring: 2L or 3L, part-time and full-time options available
- International students: We cannot arrange an H1B visa

Highly competitive candidates will also have the following:

- Interest in learning more about a lawyers' role in advocacy and gaining familiarity with movement lawyering, environmental justice, and just transitions concepts
- Passion for or personal connection to some facet of our work (clean water, water infrastructure and equity, wetlands loss, industrial risks, nature-based solutions, climate justice), as demonstrated by at least one of the following:
 - Engagement with these issues in an educational context or through volunteering
 - Firsthand connection with one of these issues through lived experience
 - Discussion of one of these issues in your letter of interest demonstrating personal knowledge or research
- Eagerness to improve and apply legal writing and analysis skills
- Comfort interpreting scientific and technical concepts
- Ability to translate legal and technical concepts to non-legal audiences
- Strong interpersonal skills, self-awareness, and enthusiasm for teamwork
- Self-motivated, creative, organized, diligent, and efficient
- Desire to learn more about centering impacted communities, equity, and environmental justice in legal work
- Connection to and enthusiasm for the greater Houston region or the Gulf South

Schedule/location

Summer interns work full-time over 10-12 weeks; part-time or shorter-term options are negotiable. We adapt fall/spring internships to complement your academic schedule and meet any university requirements. All internships are remote, though Houston-based interns may participate in in-person field work and meetings, COVID permitting.

Academic credit and funding

Stipends are available that are roughly equivalent to a minimum of \$15/hour. We ask that students seek funding through their universities when possible to reserve stipend funds for those without similar funding options. We will work with you to meet any requirements for earning academic or pro bono credit and external funding.

Application instructions

Please submit the following to careers@bayoucitywaterkeeper.org:

- An email or letter of interest explaining why you would like to intern with us
- Up-to-date resume, which lists your GPA and class rank, if available

Thank you for your interest. Applications are accepted, and offers are extended, on a rolling basis. To receive full consideration, please submit applications for summer by 2/1, fall by 6/1, and spring by 12/1. All interviews are virtual.

Our core values lead us to seek a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds to achieve our mission and maintain an inclusive environment where all staff are valued and respected. As an equal opportunity employer, we are committed to employment practices that ensure that employees and applicants for employment are given equal opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, religion, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or any other factor that is not related to the position.