



Southern Coalition for Social Justice 2019 Summer Legal Internships

SCSJ hosts several law student interns each summer to work on a variety of our cases and campaigns. We seek 1Ls and 2Ls who have demonstrated a commitment to public interest work and SCSJ's racial justice and community lawyering mission. Please see below for four specific assignment areas.

Position Descriptions

Full summer internships are full time positions with a start date to be determined in late May. All work is required to be done on-site in our office in Durham. Internships must be full-time and splitting cannot be considered.

Positions are unpaid, and we encourage interns to identify outside funding through a law school public interest grant program or course credit. All interns are required to attend [Racial Equity Training](#) at no cost. See our website for more details about our practice areas, staff, and past intern experiences.

1. **Criminal Justice Reform Intern:** SCSJ's Criminal Justice section seeks an intern to support its broad criminal justice reform initiatives. This intern will work under the supervision of criminal justice team attorneys on a wide range of advocacy issues and cases, including: the Open Data Policing Initiative, (opendatapolicingnc.com); policy analysis and research and writing to support local community initiatives, such as the Durham Second Chance Alliance and FADE Coalition (Fostering Alternatives to Drug Enforcement); and provide litigation support for ongoing cases, such as a wrongful conviction murder case and a federal prison conditions of confinement lawsuit. Duties may include researching legal issues and drafting memoranda, motions, or briefs to support ongoing litigation.
2. **Youth Justice Intern:** SCSJ established its Youth Justice Project in early 2016 and seeks an intern to support its work. YJP's mission is to ensure equity, fairness, and justice for youth in high-quality schools and the juvenile and criminal justice systems. The intern will work under the supervision of two co-directors on a wide range of advocacy and public education activities designed to end criminalization of youth in the South. Current initiatives include expanding misdemeanor diversion programs throughout North Carolina, supporting the Raise the Age campaign, and other efforts to dismantle the school to prison pipeline. Responsibilities may include legal and policy analysis, research and writing, client interviewing, and collaborative work with directly affected community members.
3. **Voting Rights Intern:** This position is an opportunity to engage in impact litigation in state and federal court under the Voting Rights Act and U.S. Constitution. The student will work side-by-side with civil rights attorneys litigating voting rights cases and partnering directly with clients on advocacy projects. SCSJ's mission, particularly in the voting rights arena, is to protect the rights of communities of color through fair redistricting and minimizing election administration practices that threaten free democratic participation in elections, such as photo ID requirements, restrictions on voter registration and early voting, and Election Day voter challenges. The intern's tasks may include: researching and writing concise memoranda on voting rights law and procedure; assisting in drafting motions, briefs, and other court documents; preparing deposition designations and other pre-trial filings; attending and providing support during depositions, hearings, and trials; engaging with clients and community partners to develop

evidence for trial, provide status updates on cases, and educate interested parties on voting rights issues; and keeping abreast of litigation deadlines and managing case files.

4. **Clean Slate Project Intern:** The Clean Slate Project was established under SCSJ's Criminal Justice Section in 2014 to address community requests for help with the collateral consequences of contact with the criminal justice system – primarily, that having a record prevents access to employment and housing. This intern will work alongside up to 5 other interns and under the supervision of three Clean Slate Project attorneys to process Clean Slate cases. The Clean Slate Project holds clinics 2-3 times per year (2 times this summer) in various areas of NC, and takes clients through referral processes outside of clinics. Responsibilities include pulling and annotating criminal records, applying the law to records to determine eligibility, client interviews and follow up, drafting letters and court petitions, researching cases with clerks, police stations, and probation offices, and administrative case file management tasks.

How to Apply

You may submit a bid through your school's Simplicity posting if applicable, or email a cover letter and resume to Whitley Carpenter at whitleycarpenter@southerncoalition.org. Please make clear in your cover letter which position(s) for which you are applying. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all internship positions are filled.

Employer Description

The Southern Coalition for Social Justice is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in August 2007 in Durham, North Carolina by a multidisciplinary group, predominantly people of color, who believe that families and communities engaged in social justice struggles need a team of lawyers, social scientists, community organizers and media specialists to support them in their efforts to dismantle structural racism and oppression.

We practice law under community lawyering and racial equity theories, and we partner with communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities in the south to defend and advance their political, social and economic rights through the combination of legal advocacy, research, organizing and communications. All of our campaigns are led by members of the communities that we represent. We are conscious about taking leadership and priorities directly from the communities most impacted by social injustice, and work to help communities achieve their own goals by providing them with the tools and assistance they need to address the issues that are important to them.

Read more about our organization on our [website](#).