

2026 Economic Justice Summer Internship Program

The National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ) seeks law students committed to social justice work and with excellent writing, legal research, and communication skills, to intern with us in the summer of 2026.

NCLEJ fights for economic and racial justice for low-income families, individuals, and communities across the country, using ground-breaking impact litigation, policy advocacy, and support for grassroots organizing. NCLEJ works to build systems that provide economic security and full participation in society to all. Our current advocacy focuses on 1) preserving and maintaining access to government benefits; 2) advancing the rights of lower wage workers; 3) combatting abusive debt collection and wealth extraction; and 4) advocating for disability justice.

Internship Description:

Students will work with staff attorneys to support ongoing impact litigation and class actions, policy analysis, and advocacy. Students have had the opportunity to assist with fact development and research for new litigation; discovery matters in pending litigation; legal and policy research on a variety of issues relating to federal court litigation; and collaborations with grassroots and community-based organizations. Examples of current NCLEJ advocacy include lawsuits challenging gross delays in [fair hearing scheduling](#), racially discriminatory policing in [Buffalo](#), failure to provide timely SNAP benefits in [Missouri](#) and [Alaska](#), or reasonable accommodations in emergency housing in [Suffolk County](#), challenging demands for SNAP data from [USDA](#), and partnering with grassroots groups to end [24-hour shifts for homecare workers](#).

Students will have the option to work in-person in our office in lower Manhattan, hybrid, or fully remote.

The internship program begins on Tuesday, May 26 and ends on Wednesday, August 5. Interns are expected to work 35 hours per week.

Qualifications:

- Students must have completed their first year of law school by summer 2026.
- Experience in and/or a demonstrated commitment to social justice.
- Excellent writing and research skills.

Vaccination Requirement: To help ensure that NCLEJ continues to operate in the safest manner possible, NCLEJ requires all employees and interns to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Requests for medical and/or religious exemptions from the vaccination requirement will be considered on an individual basis, to the extent required by law.

NCLEJ is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. We strongly encourage people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, and people from other historically disenfranchised communities to apply. NCLEJ does not discriminate because of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or



expression, age, national origin, marital or parental status, citizenship, disability, veteran status, record of arrest or conviction, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.

Compensation:

NCLEJ supports students to whom it has offered a position in seeking funding from their law school or outside sources. If a student is unable to obtain other funding, NCLEJ will provide a stipend in the amount of \$7,000 for the summer, including supplementing law school or outside funding up to that amount. (For example, if a student obtains a summer funding grant from their law school of \$4,000, NCLEJ will pay that student \$3,000). Accepted students will receive more information about this process after receiving notice of their acceptance.

How to apply:

We have two application periods: for 2Ls, please submit your application by midnight PST on **Friday, October 17**. We will have a second application period open to both 1Ls and 2Ls that will be open from **December 1 through January 9** (due by midnight PST). Please send a cover letter, resume, list of three references, and short writing sample (legal memorandum or brief) to student@nclej.org. Due to the high volume of applications, we are not able to respond to every email. We will contact you if we wish to schedule an interview.

NCLEJ is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities. If you are a qualified individual with a disability and need assistance applying, please contact Michelle Peeples at 212-633-6967 or peeples@nclej.org. If you are selected for an interview, you will receive additional information regarding how to request an accommodation for the interview process.