Economic Justice Spring Student Internship

The National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ) seeks enthusiastic, motivated student interns with a commitment to economic, racial, and disability justice to participate in a term-time internship.

NCLEJ advances economic, racial, and disability justice for low-income families, individuals, and communities across the country, through ground-breaking impact litigation, policy advocacy, support for grassroots organizing, and training and capacity-building for legal services providers nationwide. NCLEJ works to build systems that provide economic security, respect human dignity, and enable everyone to participate fully in our society. Specifically, our advocacy focuses on 1) safeguarding access to public benefits; 2) advancing the rights of lower wage workers; and 3) combatting abusive debt collection and wealth extraction, all of which we do through a racial and disability justice lens. We litigate extensively in federal and state courts across the country, typically as lead counsel in class actions, and we partner with grassroots and community-based organizations, other legal organizations, and the private bar to achieve our mission.

Internship Description: Students will support our policy work leading the 13th Forward Coalition, whose aim is to improve conditions for incarcerated workers in New York prisons. We are advocating for the passage of a package of bills that would ensure that the current prison labor system prohibits forced labor and involuntary servitude, raises wages from the current average of 33 cents an hour, protects worker safety and health, and creates job training programs that provide real pathways to employment upon release.

Some areas of responsibility for an intern would include:

- Research and maintenance of the 13th Forward website
- Support creation of social media assets for the legislative campaign
- Support outreach to state elected officials and coordination of Albany lobby days
- Support organizers in base building efforts with allied organizations and individuals, including coalition meetings and public education events

Qualifications: Students must have experience in and/or a demonstrated commitment to social justice. Applicants should possess strong writing and research skills, social media savvy, cultural sensitivity, and willingness to engage in all tasks associated with a legislative campaign including scheduling meetings with elected officials, data tracking and input, and overseeing lobby day logistics. Applicants must be available to work a minimum of 10 hours per week for 12 weeks over the course of the Spring term.

Vaccination Requirement: To help ensure that NCLEJ continues to operate in the safest manner possible, NCLEJ requires all employees 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.

Equal opportunity: 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, LGBTQ+ 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.

NCLEJ makes every effort to ensure that its recruitment and employment provide all qualified individuals, including individuals with disabilities, with full opportunities for internships in all positions.

We are most interested in finding the best candidate for the job, and that candidate may be one who comes from a less traditional background. If you are interested in applying, we encourage you to think broadly about your background and qualifications for the role.

Compensation: NCLEJ supports students in obtaining school credit for term-time internships. If a student is not receiving school credit or outside funding, NCLEJ pays term-time interns $20/hour.

How to apply: Send a cover letter and resume to lotto@nclej.org. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until December 4, 2026. 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 Leah Lotto at 212-633-6967 or lotto@nclej.org. If you are selected for an interview, you will receive additional information regarding how to request an accommodation for the interview process.