

Language Access Project Internship (Academic Year or Semester Opportunity)

Applicants for this internship should be bilingual in English and Spanish or be near-fluent in Spanish.

The DC Language Access Act provides greater access and participation in public services, programs and activities for residents of the District of Columbia with limited or no-English proficiency. It requires that all DC government agencies—such as, the Department of Human Services, the DC Housing Authority, the Metropolitan Police Department, etc.— provide free interpreter services to any limited English proficient person who is trying to access services and free translations of vital documents for anyone who speaks one of the six prevalent languages in DC (Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese). Individuals who do not receive these services may file a complaint at the DC Office of Human Rights.

This internship involves identifying Legal Aid clients with limited or no-English proficiency (primarily monolingual Spanish speakers), contacting the clients to determine whether they have encountered any language access barriers in their efforts to secure services, and educating the clients about their rights pursuant to the DC Language Access Act. If the client has encountered language access barriers, the intern will discuss with the client whether she/he wants help resolving any current language access barrier through informal means, filing a complaint with the DC Office of Human Rights, or both. Interns may also have the opportunity to do casework on open language access cases (e.g., client interviews, factual investigation).