



[www.legalaiddc.org](http://www.legalaiddc.org)  
1331 H Street, NW  
Suite 350  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 628-1161

**LEGAL AID SUMMER INTERN SCHOLARSHIP POLICY**  
**Last Updated March 2023**

Law school and undergraduate students may volunteer at Legal Aid through internships. All internships at Legal Aid are unpaid. Legal Aid strongly believes, however, that financial need should not be a barrier for otherwise qualified students to participate in its more formal, 10-week summer internship program. As such, students who are offered a summer internship for whom financial considerations may serve as an obstacle to participation in the program are encouraged to request a scholarship. Legal Aid may award such scholarships provided that students meet or satisfy the criteria set forth in this policy and subject to funding availability.

**For law students:** Recently, Legal Aid established the [Lee Horton Memorial Scholarship Fund](#) for Aspiring Public Interest Lawyers in honor of Lee Horton, a member of the Legal Aid family who passed away in 2021 after having a seizure one day after his 18th birthday. Lee was passionate about racial justice, something that stemmed in part from the murder of a close family friend, who was a West African immigrant, when Lee was a young child. Lee planned to go to law school after college, with the hope of becoming a public interest lawyer.

The Lee Horton Memorial Scholarship Fund was endowed by Lee's loving parents to enable others, especially those from communities historically underrepresented in the practice of law, to pursue the path of public interest law.

Any interested law student should apply for a Lee Horton Memorial Scholarship using the attached [application](#). If you are not approved for a Horton Scholarship, you will automatically be considered for a Legal Aid Summer Internship Scholarship.

**For undergraduates:** Undergraduate summer interns should submit the attached application for a Legal Aid Summer Internship Scholarship.

**Eligibility for a Legal Aid Summer Internship Scholarship**

Legal Aid may provide a scholarship of up to \$5,000 for law students and up to \$3,000 for undergraduate students, provided that:

1. The student is a law student who was not chosen to receive a Lee Horton Memorial Scholarship or is an undergraduate student;
2. The student volunteers full time at Legal Aid for at least 10 weeks of the summer, or the equivalent (400 hours);
3. The student is not receiving any course credits to participate in the internship program;
4. If the student attends a law school or undergraduate institution that offers a public interest summer fellowship or similar funding, that the student applied for

but did not receive that funding, or alternatively, the funding awarded to the student is less than the scholarship amount Legal Aid offers; and

5. The student is not otherwise compensated for the internship by another source (e.g., a law school-funded or undergraduate-funded fellowship) in an amount equal to or greater than the scholarship that Legal Aid offers – this does not apply to income from other sources such as the intern themselves or their families.

**Part-Time Summer Interns.** If a student volunteers fewer than 10 weeks of the summer, or hours that are less than full-time hours, Legal Aid may, at its discretion, provide a scholarship in a pro-rated amount, if the other conditions stated above are met. Full-time for purposes of this scholarship policy is defined as 40 hours a week, or the equivalent.

**Exclusions.** Because the vast majority of *semester* interns receive school credit for their internships and/or work less than full-time hours, Legal Aid does not offer scholarships to non-summer interns at this time. This policy also does not apply to volunteers who are not undergraduate students. At this time, Legal Aid does not provide a scholarship to non-undergraduate or non-law student volunteers.

### **Distribution of Funds**

Generally speaking, the Lee Horton and Legal Aid scholarship funds will be disbursed in two lump sum payments by check made payable to qualifying students sometime shortly after they begin their summer internship and shortly after the midpoint of the internship. If for any reason, a student who receives a scholarship does not continue to meet or satisfy the obligations set forth above (e.g., a student does not work the required number of hours or terminates the internship before the required 10 weeks), Legal Aid reserves the right to require reimbursement of the disbursed scholarship funds, or a pro-rated portion of the disbursed scholarship funds, as appropriate.

Students who are awarded scholarships will receive a 1099-MISC reflecting that they received the scholarship from Legal Aid. Students are responsible for handling the tax implications of receiving these funds and paying any taxes due.