

Rising for Justice – Criminal Record Sealing and Respondent Representation Program Undergraduate Intern Job Posting – Summer 2026

Rising for Justice is seeking committed interns to work in its trailblazing Criminal Record Sealing and Respondent Representation programs. This internship offers students the opportunity to work directly on clients' cases in a legal non-profit environment. We are looking for interns with excellent organizational and communication skills, as well as a demonstrated interest in helping clients.

About Rising for Justice

Created in 1969, Rising for Justice (RFJ), formerly known as D.C. Law Students in Court, is the oldest clinical legal education program in the District of Columbia. RFJ currently operates as a public interest legal services provider and clinical education program. Our mission is to leverage the collective forces of students and experienced advocates to achieve justice for all.

RFJ embraces equal justice and diversity as core values. We strive to maintain a workplace that is vibrant, welcoming, innovative, and collaborative. We are committed to fostering the thoughtful exchange of ideas and to ensuring that all voices are heard and respected. We seek interns who embrace our mission and values.

What we do

Criminal Record Sealing Program: RFJ's Record Sealing Program is one of the few in Washington, D.C. where individuals with criminal records can seek free attorney representation to seal their criminal records and put the past behind them. RFJ directly represents and partners with pro bono attorneys to provide free legal counsel to help residents of the District to pursue the complicated legal process of clearing their criminal records.

Respondent Representation Program: Every year, thousands of individuals appear at CPO hearings in the Domestic Violence Division of the Superior Court and face losing custody of their children, deportation, incarceration, or other severe consequences that generally are considered only to result from criminal proceedings. However, where criminal defendants have the right to counsel, most CPO respondents must represent themselves. RFJ is fighting this inequity by being the only organization to provide legal counsel to respondents.

Responsibilities

We are seeking interns who are deeply committed to the mission and purpose of RFJ and the Criminal Record Sealing/Respondent Representation programs. We offer meaningful, hands-on opportunities to work directly with clients daily. This will be an unpaid position.

Some typical assignments include:

- Assisting with the intake process for the respondent representation and record sealing programs
- Conducting investigations and interviewing clients and witnesses
- Managing and updating our case management files
- Assisting with law clinics, community resource fairs, and fundraising events
- Developing content for marketing and outreach efforts
- Responding to telephone and email inquiries
- Providing additional office support as needed

Application Instructions

The deadline to apply for this internship is **March 20, 2026**. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to expungement@risingforjustice.org with the subject line, “Undergraduate Intern Application – [Your Name]”

For information on our programs, visit <https://risingforjustice.org/>.