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lakidsrights.org

INVESTIGATIVE INTERNSHIP JUVENILE PUBLIC DEFENDER – NEW ORLEANS

The Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights, a nonprofit law office that serves as the juvenile public defender in New Orleans, seeks investigative interns to assist in finding and developing material for the defense of LCCR clients. The practice of investigation is carried out mostly in the field – in private homes, in schools, in businesses, and in the community. This requires creativity, perseverance, empathy, responsibility, and excellent communication skills. Strong candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to working with indigent youth and underprivileged communities.

Organizational Overview

The Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights is a nonprofit law office that defends the right of children in Louisiana’s juvenile justice system to fairness, dignity, and opportunity.

Our Children’s Defense Team serves as New Orleans’ juvenile public defender, representing over 90% of the children arrested in Orleans Parish. We practice a holistic model of defense to address children’s needs both inside and outside the courtroom.

We advocate for state and local policies that reduce the number of children in the justice system and provide effective alternatives to arrest and incarceration. When kids do enter the system, we call for policies that keep them safe, protect their rights, and end their incarceration as soon as possible.

Position Responsibilities

- Locating and interviewing witnesses;
- Taking witness statements;
- Photographing crime scenes;
- Writing investigative reports;
- Testifying in court;
- Performing background checks;
- Obtaining and analyzing police records and body camera footage; and
- Assisting attorneys throughout the trial preparation process.

Qualifications and Eligibility Requirements

We do not require either a specific academic background or prior experience in criminal investigation. All investigative interns will be trained in proper defense investigation techniques. Qualities we typically see in successful interns include responsibility, good judgment, empathy, and commitment to working with our diverse community here in New Orleans.

We will pair each intern with a partner. Interns will set their own schedules in consultation with their supervisors. Candidates must have transportation and access to a computer.

Salary and Compensation

This unpaid internship requires a minimum commitment of 16 hours per week for at least sixteen weeks with the understanding of potential trial testimony post-internship. We will work with qualified candidates to help them secure any funding or academic credit that is available to them through their institutions.

Application Instructions

Please email a brief statement of interest (no more than 500 words) and resume to Miguel Nunez, mnunez@lakidsrights.org . Please include the position title in the email subject line. Please do not call with inquiries. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.