



PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Letitia James

Position: Legal Internship
Location: 1 Centre Street, New York, NY
Salary: Unpaid
Program Start Date: Spring Interns – Two full days for 12 weeks
Summer Interns – 35 hours per week for four weeks

Contact: Joan Laufer, Intern and Volunteer Coordinator
jlaufer@pubadvocate.nyc.gov

Application Deadline: Rolling

Overview

The Public Advocate for the City of New York is a citywide elected official who serves as a direct link between the electorate and city government, effectively acting as an ombudsman, or "watchdog," for New Yorkers by providing oversight of city agencies, investigating citizens' complaints about city services and making legislative or policy proposals to address perceived shortcomings of those services; as well as bringing litigation. The Public Advocate presides over New York City Council stated meetings and is a non-voting member of the Council with the right to introduce and co-sponsor legislation.

Position Description

The Legal Unit of the Public Advocate's Office works directly with the Constituent Services Unit to identify patterns of misconduct that may be the subject of litigation. It also works closely with the Policy Unit to craft legislative fixes to problems that cannot be addressed through the courts. Some examples of the litigation the Office has been engaged in include: a lawsuit challenging charter school co-locations in public school buildings, Fair Housing Act litigation challenging the Department of Buildings' failure to ensure compliance with accessibility laws, and a petition to unseal the grand jury minutes in a case involving the death of a civilian at the hands of the police on Staten Island. The legal intern will conduct research, draft memoranda, interview potential litigants, and conduct fact research into potential claims. Interns will also have the opportunity to gain experience working directly with constituents. Along with the assignments, a variety of "Lunch and Learn" seminars and visits to other government offices may be scheduled.

Preferred Qualifications

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Experience with diverse and low-income populations
- Ability to work independently and with a team in a fast-paced environment
- Great sense of humor

Interested applicants should send their most recent resume, cover letter, two references (one from the Law School) and a two-page writing sample to Joan Laufer, Intern and Volunteer Coordinator at jlaufer@pubadvocate.nyc.gov. Following receipt of these materials, interviews will be scheduled.