

2017 Summer Internships

Contact Information

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Northwest Health Law Advocates seeks law student interns for the summer of 2017.

Organization Description

NoHLA is a Seattle-based nonprofit organization that works to achieve a health care system in which all individuals receive quality, affordable health care in Washington State. NoHLA's work includes policy analysis, public education, administrative and legislative advocacy, research, and litigation. NoHLA provides training and support to attorneys, health and social service professionals, advocates and policymakers on a wide array of health care-related issues. We advocate with state and federal agencies and legislative bodies to adopt policies that promote access to health care. We conduct litigation and draft amicus briefs on health care issues of public significance.

In the past few years, we have seen far-reaching changes to our nation's health care systems, but these changes are now threatened. NoHLA has worked to ensure that the systems created by the ACA to expand coverage and insurance affordability are sensible and accessible to the widest range of individuals. With proposals to roll back or change many health programs, we are striving to ensure that the gains are protected to the greatest extent possible. Some recent health-related projects include:

- Conducting a secret shopper survey of insurance companies and analysis of their formularies to identify and correct deficits in their contraceptive coverage;
- Surveying health care enrollment assisters on their clients' enrollment experience and the obstacles they faced in getting coverage;
- Collaborating with allied stakeholders and the WA Health Benefit Exchange on a pioneering language access policy for limited English proficient persons;
- Bringing successful class action litigation to combat discrimination based on citizenship/immigration status in state health benefits programs;
- Spearheading legislation to help individuals get health coverage upon their release from incarceration;
- Fostering consumer engagement in regional health improvement collaboratives;
- Ensuring hospital accountability in providing charity care to low-income patients.

Law Student Projects

As a NoHLA intern or extern, you will have the opportunity to work on a variety of projects. These include legal research and writing, drafting and editing public education materials, attending advocacy coalition meetings, drafting comments on proposed changes to agency regulations, legislative analysis, assisting with fundraising activities, preparing and delivering oral presentations on health care issues, and policy research on health-care issues (e.g., drafting reports and conducting surveys).

Minimum requirements and qualifications

NoHLA requires students who work for us during the school year to work 10 hours/week for a minimum of one academic term. Summer internships are full-time for a minimum of 10 weeks. Strong writing skills and oral presentation skills are required of all law student interns and externs. Second- and third-year law students are preferred, as are applicants with experience dealing directly with diverse populations, experience or training in public benefits, insurance or administrative law; knowledge of health policy, the health care system or related areas; and fluency in a language other than English. An ability to work independently (and ask for direction when appropriate) is critical.

NoHLA does not have the capacity to pay students, but we can offer help with applying for grant funding and provide necessary supervision and reporting for students seeking academic credit.

Application Process

Please email a cover letter, resume, legal writing sample that has not been substantially edited by someone else, and at least two academic/professional references to Daniel Gross, Senior Staff Attorney, at daniel@nohla.org . An additional writing sample directed to a non-attorney audience is helpful but not required. You are welcome to contact Mr. Gross with questions about NoHLA or the legal intern/extern experience. Additional information is available on NoHLA's website at www.nohla.org.