SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST GRANT PROGRAM

The Public Interest Institute will award grants to Alabama law students performing law-related, public interest work during the summer of 2018.

Eligibility
Grants are open to all first and second year students in good academic standing at The University of Alabama School of Law who plan to return to UA in the fall of 2018.

Placement
- Placements must be unpaid internships at nonprofit or government offices that engage in public interest law, and for which students are not receiving academic credit.
- Grants will not be awarded for placements in: a judge’s office; a congressional or legislative staff office; or any office not engaged in public interest work.
- Public interest work is defined as assisting and representing individuals or causes who are traditionally underrepresented in the legal system; helping to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights; and helping charitable, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations not able to afford adequate legal representation.
- Placements may be for a full summer or a portion of the summer.

Award Criteria
The committee will consider the following criteria in making award decisions:
- The applicant’s current and prior community service and/or pro bono involvement
- The applicant’s commitment to pursuing a career in public service
- Whether and to what degree the placement is involved in public interest work
- How well the placement will further the applicant’s legal skills and career goals

Funding: Grants are contingent on the availability of funding and will be made in varying amounts, which typically range from $500 to $3,000, for identified travel and living expenses. Any supplemental funding from the host organization or other sources (such as additional summer jobs) must be indicated. If a student is awarded supplemental funding after the submission of the application, the student must inform the Assistant Dean for Public Interest Law.

Deadline: Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2018, to Felecia Linton either electronically (flinton@law.ua.edu) or in person (Room 173B). Decisions will be made by the Public Interest Committee by mid-April.
The University of Alabama School of Law

SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST GRANT APPLICATION 2018

Part I. Application Form

Name _____________________________________  Student CWID_________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________
Phone _____________________________________  E-mail _____________________________

Name of Placement _____________________________________________________________
Placement Address _____________________________________________________________
Supervisor Name/Phone or E-mail _________________________________________________

Proposed Dates of Employment: from_____________________ to _________________________
How many weeks will you be working at your placement? __________ weeks
For how many hours per week? __________ hours / week
Please state what you will be doing for the remainder of the summer (along with dates): ______________

Will you have any sources of income during the summer (loans, part-time jobs, etc.)? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, please describe: __________________________________________________________

Is there any compensation provided by the organization (e.g. room/board/travel reimbursement)?
_____ Yes _____ No
If so, for what amount / purpose? _________________________________________________

Have you applied to any other funding? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, please describe and give amount(s): __________________________________________

Grant recipients who do not return to the University of Alabama School of Law in the fall of 2018 may be required to pay back any funds received. Do you plan to return to the University of Alabama School of Law in the fall of 2018? _____ Yes _____ No

Please note that grant recipients will be expected to assist with fundraising for the Summer Grant program during the 2018-19 academic year, as well as to act as a mentor to other students seeking public interest internships and summer grant funding. Are you willing to perform these tasks? _____ Yes _____ No

Grant recipients are required to submit an essay describing their summer experiences and may also be asked to write thank-you letters to donors who have contributed funds to the Summer Grant program. Are you willing to submit these items? _____ Yes _____ No
Part II. Short Essay Questions

Please type thoughtful answers with explanations to the following questions on a separate sheet:

1. Describe the law-related work you propose to do this summer. (max. 200 words)

2. Describe the organization you plan to work for. (max. 200 words)

3. Explain your personal commitment to and interest in pursuing a career in public service. (max. 300 words)

4. How does this work relate to or further your career goals? (max. 300 words)

5. If you do not receive a grant, or do not receive the entire amount requested, will you still be able to work at your placement? Please explain how you would pay your expenses under these circumstances. (max. 200 words)

Part III. Additional Required Documents

☐ Resume
☐ A list of your prior and current public interest activities*
☐ A record of your volunteer hours during law school*
☐ Offer letter from the host organization**
☐ Transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
☐ A completed budget worksheet

* These are not required if you have not had the opportunity to engage in public interest or volunteer activities. Please submit them if you have them.

** We recognize that such a letter is sometimes difficult to acquire by the application deadline. If you are unable to produce an offer letter, please include a brief description of the communication you have had with the host organization and when you expect to receive a decision.

Part IV. Signature

By signing below, I affirm that everything in my application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

_________________________________________________  _________________________
Name                                      Date

Please submit all your materials, either in person or electronically to Felecia Linton in Room 173B or at flinton@law.ua.edu, by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2018.