

# Racial, Social and Economic Justice Externship Program

The *Racial, Social and Economic Justice Program (RSEJ)* brings together students, lawyers and a range of organizations and agencies that specifically address issues of racial, social and economic justice within different practice settings and across different issues areas.

Students will extern at the placement, and take a corresponding one credit seminar with fellow students specifically about racial and social justice work. Participating organizations include:

- Government agencies: US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development: Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; US Dept. of Education: Office for Civil Rights; and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- Plaintiff's side firms focused on anti-discrimination: Rathod Mohamedbhai LLC; Killmer, Lane and Newman; Sweeney & Bechtold LLC; and Lowrey Parady, LLC.
- Nonprofit organizations: ACLU of Colorado, the Native American Rights Fund, the Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center, and the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network.

See below for more information about the placements.

## TIMELINE for SPRING 2016:

<i>October 16, 2015</i>	<p>Applications due to <a href="mailto:afreeman@law.du.edu">afreeman@law.du.edu</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An application includes: Cover letter, resume, writing sample, 2 references (listed not letters). You can write one general cover letter for all placements.</li> <li>• Externship office forwards applications to placements.</li> </ul>
<i>October 17 to November 5, 2015</i>	Supervising Attorneys interview students
<i>By November 6, 2015</i>	Offers made to students
<i>November, 2015</i>	Supervising Attorney acceptance forms must be submitted to <a href="mailto:externships@law.du.edu">externships@law.du.edu</a> (Early submission encouraged)

Contact Alexi Freeman at [afreeman@law.du.edu](mailto:afreeman@law.du.edu) with any questions. Freeman can also put you in touch with students who were involved in the program during Fall 2014.

## PLACEMENTS:

- *ACLU of Colorado*: The ACLU of Colorado, an affiliate of the national ACLU, is Colorado's guardian of freedom, working to promote and defend civil liberties in Colorado. To achieve this mission, it manages legal, legislative, and public education programs on a broad range of constitutional issues including discrimination, free speech, religious freedom, reproductive rights, LGBT rights, criminal justice, and privacy. Students will participate in litigation and advocacy.
- *Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center*: CREEC is a membership organization that aims to ensure everyone can fully and independently participate in our nation's civic life without discrimination based on race, gender, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. CREEC promotes this goal through

education member input, instructional materials, individual advocacy, persuasion, hectoring, humor, collaboration, and animated YouTube videos and enforcement, that is, investigating and filing lawsuits. Students will work on investigating and/or litigating civil rights cases. *Note for this placement students can only work for a maximum of 2 credit hours (100 hours).*

- *Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:* EEOC is the federal agency charged by Congress with enforcement of four federal statutes prohibiting employment discrimination. Students will engage in litigation practice, including drafting discovery, drafting motions, drafting memoranda regarding development of cases for litigation, assisting in preparation for depositions, hearings and oral argument, and interviewing witnesses and individuals for whom the EEOC is seeking relief, particularly in cases with a large number of class members. *\*Please note: this placement is also in the Public Sector Diversity Internship program. Students who are admitted via that program will be placed in the RSEJ seminar.*
- *Killmer, Lane and Newman:* Killmer Lane and Newman is a civil rights/criminal defense law firm. Cases include Title VII and Section 1983 claims as well as death penalty defense at the state and federal level. Students will engage in research and writing, and communicate with witnesses.
- *Lowrey Parady, LLC:* This is a small, woman-owned plaintiff's-side employment firm specializing in the representation of employees in matters such as discrimination, underpayment of wages, and retaliation. They also handle a variety of civil rights cases. They take pride in representing underrepresented communities and causes.
- *Native American Rights Fund:* NARF provides legal representation and technical assistance to Indian tribes, organizations, and individuals nationwide - a constituency that often lacks access to the justice system. NARF focuses on applying existing laws and treaties to guarantee that national and state governments live up to their legal obligations. Students will engage in litigation related activities, including writing memos, attending meetings, and participating in pleadings, if available (located in Boulder, CO).
- *Rathod Mohamedbhai LLC:* Rathod | Mohamedbhai LLC is a law firm of experienced trial attorneys representing individuals in Denver and throughout Colorado and Wyoming. Lawyers advocate for the rights of employees in the workplace and protect the civil rights of individuals oppressed by governmental abuses of power. Externs work on all aspects of litigation cases, including drafting representation letters, charges of discrimination, complaints, motions, and more.
- *Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network:* RMIAN is a nonprofit organization that serves low-income men, women, and children in immigration proceedings. RMIAN promotes knowledge of legal rights, provides effective representation to ensure due process, works to improve detention conditions, and promotes a more humane immigration system, including alternatives to detention. *Note: preference for students with the ability to speak Spanish.*
- *Sweeney & Bechtold, LLC:* This is a small firm focusing on the representation of employees in employment disputes. The practice is devoted to employment law, with an emphasis on employment discrimination issues. The firm represents both private and government sector employees in matters of discrimination, harassment, civil rights, wrongful discharge, contractual disputes, and other federal and state law claims related to all phases of the employment relationship.
- *US Dept. of Education-Office for Civil Rights:* The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) ensures equal access to education and promotes educational excellence throughout the nation through vigorous enforcement of civil rights laws. OCR enforces civil rights laws that protect people from discrimination in educational programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, and disability. Students participate in all aspects of complaint investigations.
- *US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development-Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity:* The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity administers federal laws and establishes national policies that make sure all Americans have equal access to the housing of their choice. Particular activities carried out by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity include implementing and enforcing the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights laws. Students engage in research, investigation, and site visits, if applicable.