

Denver Law and partners offer a range of competitive stipends to support unpaid work with nonprofits, governmental agencies, and judicial chambers during Summer 2026. Denver Law appreciates your willingness to contribute to the public good and we want to support your efforts. For all stipends below, you are generally eligible to receive credit simultaneously, provided the placement is approved, the work is eligible, and externship registration is submitted on time. The options below are specialized opportunities to apply for particular financial awards; other public sector summer placements exist and *some* may offer payment.

Contact alexi.freeman@du.edu with questions on stipends or public interest summer opportunities generally.

Summer Funding for Public Interest Work

- **Denver Law Summer Stipends (Amount TBD):** Denver Law provides funding to students who are working unpaid in a legal placement with a nonprofit, government agency, or judicial chambers. In determining awardees, the committee will consider and prioritize the following: timely and thoughtful completion of the application, whether applicants are receiving any other funding (e.g. housing stipend etc.); any extraordinary costs associated with the summer/placement; applicants' demonstrated commitment to the public good; applicants' whose work is in the nonprofit setting; and applicants' whose work is on behalf of underrepresented clients, groups, or organizations. Whether or not you are receiving credit is not a factor. If you are receiving a housing, living, or transportation stipend, you are still eligible to apply but specify the funding you will receive in the application. You must have secured a placement to apply. The number of awards and amount of each award is yet to be determined. **Complete an online application via <https://tinyurl.com/dusummerstipend26> and submit other relevant info as stated in the application. Due by April 20, 2026.**
- **Squire Patton Boggs Foundation Public Policy Fellowship (\$2,750):** If you will be engaging in public policy work in summer 2026 for either a nonprofit or government agency of your choosing for at least 8 weeks, consider applying for this fellowship, which provides a minimum of \$2750 to support your work. You must have secured an eligible summer position to apply for this supplemental funding opportunity. The selected students will have a Squire Patton Boggs law firm mentor and a mentor who has been one of the foundation's prior 419 Fellows. This is **not** an opportunity to work with the sponsoring firm or foundation. To be eligible to receive this funding, you cannot do any litigation work. Contact Prof Freeman if you want more clarity on whether your work is eligible. If selected for the funding, you will be notified by the law school after the deadline of April 1. Resume and short essay responses required. **Apply via Simplicity #36699. Due by April 1, 2026.**
- **Denver Law, Animal Law Summer Fellowships (\$4000):** The University of Denver Animal Law Program is committed to supporting summer public interest employment opportunities for students by providing guaranteed Summer Fellowship awards of **\$4,000** apiece to two animal law students who choose to work in a public interest law position during the summer. Students are eligible for this stipend during the summer after their first year, the summer after their second year, or both. However, priority will be given to first-year students as fewer paid internship opportunities exist for them. First-year students must work in eligible nonprofit positions for at least eight weeks of their first-year summer, and second-year students must work in eligible positions for ten weeks of their second-year summer. All aid, including scholarship, loan, and stipend funds, cannot exceed the annual cost of attendance. You may contact the Office of Student Financial Management at Law-FinancialManagement@du.edu if you have any questions about the financial aid implications of the Animal Law Summer Fellowships or any other aid. **To apply, please send a cover letter and CV to animallawprogram@law.du.edu by April 20, 2026.**
- **Squire Patton Boggs Foundation Sustained Impact Advancing Justice Fellowship (\$5,500):** The selected students will work in summer 2026 with either the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights Under Law in Washington DC, working on voting or education rights, OR with Lone Star Justice Alliance in Dallas, working on juvenile justice in minority communities in Dallas. Students must work at least 8 weeks. Denver Law can nominate one student for the fellowship (students will then be considered among other applicants across the country by the Foundation and organizations). The selected students will each be paid \$5,500. The selected student will have a Squire Patton Boggs law firm mentor and a mentor who has been one of the foundation's prior 419 Fellows. Resume and short essay responses required. **Apply via Simplicity #36701. Due by Jan. 15, 2026.**

- **Squire Patton Boggs Foundation Sustained Impact Veterans' Justice Fellowship (\$5,500):** The one student selected across the country will work with Swords to Plowshares, a nonprofit organization located in San Francisco/Oakland area and dedicated to supporting veterans and their families. The student must work at least 8 weeks. Denver Law can nominate one student for the fellowship (students will then be considered among other applicants across the country by the Foundation and organization). The selected student will be paid \$5,500. The selected student will have a Squire Patton Boggs law firm mentor and a mentor who has been one of the foundation's prior 419 Fellows. Resume and short essay responses required **Apply via Simplicity #36700. Due by Jan. 15, 2026.**
- **Squire Patton Boggs Foundation Sustained Impact Human Rights Fellow with Human Rights Watch (\$5,500):** The selected student will work with Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit in Washington DC, which investigates and reports on human rights abuses globally. The student must work at least 8 weeks. Denver Law can nominate one student for the fellowship (students will then be considered among other applicants across the country by the Foundation and organization). The selected student will be paid \$5,500. The selected student will have a Squire Patton Boggs law firm mentor and a mentor who has been one of the foundation's prior 419 Fellows. Resume and short essay responses required. **Apply via Simplicity #36702. Due by Jan. 15, 2026.**
- **Squire Patton Boggs Foundation Sustained Impact Joe Brand Human Rights Fellowship with Human Rights First (\$5,500):** The selected student will work with Human Rights First, which works in the United States and abroad to promote respect for human rights and the rule of law. The student must work at least 8 weeks. Denver Law can nominate one student for the fellowship (students will then be considered among other applicants across the country by the Foundation and organization). The selected student will be paid \$5,500. The selected student will have a Squire Patton Boggs law firm mentor and a mentor who has been one of the foundation's prior 419 Fellows. Resume and short essay responses required. **Apply via Simplicity #36703. Due by Jan. 15, 2026.**
- **Squire Patton Boggs Foundation Sustained Impact Advancing Justice Fellowship (\$5,500):** The selected student will work with Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio (Ohio) in the Chillicothe office. Chillicothe is an hour away from Columbus, the current State Capital of Ohio. Chillicothe has a long history, as the center of the ancient Hopewell tradition, followed by the Shawnees and then Ohio's first State Capital. The student will also have the opportunity to work part time in the Columbus office as needed. The student will be focused in the area of Community Economic Development (CED) by helping to directly expand access to free legal services for small businesses and entrepreneurs across eight Southern Ohio counties: Scioto, Pike, Ross, Pickaway, Fayette, Fairfield, Jackson, and Lawrence. The student will help to bridge the justice gap by systematically increasing awareness and availability of pro bono business law resources. The project's core activities are threefold: first, to develop and disseminate plain-language educational materials on foundational business legal topics; second, to conduct targeted outreach through presentations and partnerships with local chambers of commerce, libraries, and economic development agencies; and third, to establish a centralized online information hub to streamline access to services. By also providing crucial support to staff attorneys through client intake and legal research, the student will immediately increase LASCO's capacity to serve more clients. The student must work at least 8 weeks. Denver Law can nominate one student for the fellowship (students will then be considered among other applicants across the country by the Foundation and organization). The selected student will be paid \$5,500. The selected student will have a Squire Patton Boggs law firm mentor and a mentor who has been one of the foundation's prior 419 Fellows. Resume and short essay responses required. **Apply via Simplicity #36704. Due by Jan. 15, 2026.**
- **Hill and Robbins Public Interest Paid Internship (\$6,000):** One student, from Denver Law or Colorado Law, will be placed with the Colorado Lawyers Committee and will have an opportunity to work on various public interest projects relating to poverty issues and children. The CLC is a consortium of almost 80 law firms dedicated to providing and increasing opportunities for children and other disadvantaged communities through advocacy, negotiation, and litigation. The lawyers and others who donate their time through the CLC focus primarily on systemic changes, rather than on representation of individuals. For more information, please visit www.ColoradoLawyersCommittee.org. The Internship is full-time work for ten weeks. The student will receive a total stipend of \$6,000. The internship will take place in person at the Colorado Lawyers Committee office (1401 Lawrence Street, Suite 2300) with the option of a hybrid schedule. Cover letter, resume, and one recommendation required. **Apply via Simplicity #36680. Due by Jan. 30, 2026.**

- **Non DU Student Specific:**

- **Equal Justice Works Rural Summer Legal Corps (\$7,000):** In partnership with the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), 50 law students will serve rural communities this summer through the Rural Summer Legal Corps.

Student Fellows spend eight to ten weeks at LSC-funded civil legal aid organizations, while developing valuable skills and gaining hands-on experience in several areas of public interest law. **Students earn \$7,000 for working 300 hours during the summer. [Apply here](#). Due by Feb. 16, 2026.**

- **Peggy Browning Fellowship Fund (\$7,000):** This fund provides stipends to law students who dedicate their summer to advancing the cause of workers' rights by working for labor unions, worker centers, labor-related not-for-profit organizations, union-side law firms, and other nonprofit organizations. It is a ten-week summer fellowship at organizations across the country. [More detailed information here](#). [Apply here](#). **Due by Jan. 16, 2026 (Rolling).**
- **Curtin Justice Fund Legal Internship Program (\$3,500):** The ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty's 2025 Curtin Justice Fund Legal Internship Program will pay a stipend to three law school students who spend the summer months working for a bar association or legal services program designed to prevent homelessness or assist homeless or indigent clients or their advocates. [Apply here](#). **Due by March 27, 2026 (Rolling Deadline).**
- **Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowship for Social and Economic Justice (\$3000):** These summer fellowships are designed to encourage work in the NLG tradition of "peoples 'lawyering.'" The program helps students and legal workers apply their talents and skills to find creative ways to use the law to advance justice. Burns Fellowships challenge traditional notions of how one must practice law and provide a summer experience that will enrich and challenge fellows. Fellowships may be completed with NLG aligned organizations or law firms whose mission is in line with the Guild's commitment to prioritizing people and ecosystems over property interests. We encourage applicants to prioritize grassroots and non-traditional work opportunities such as a small non-profit, a community law firm, an organizing campaign that needs legal assistance, or a solo practitioner who embodies the principles of people's lawyering. Students are expected to be awarded \$3000 for 10 weeks of work. You must have a placement to apply to this funding opportunity. **For more details visit the Symplicity Annoucement. Due by Jan. 6, 2026.**
- **Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Summer Internship Program – Chicago/Illinois (\$6,500):** This program connects law students from across the country with public interest law agencies in Illinois, with PILI ensuring quality supervision by experienced attorneys and providing extra educational, networking and advising opportunities. Interns work 400 hours full-time during the summer. [For more information and for a list of the 30+ participating organizations visit this site](#). [Apply here](#). **Rolling Deadline (most hiring is completing by February/March).**
- For a broader list of summer stipends or public sector options particularly out-of-state, we strongly recommend that you visit the [PSJD website](#) for public interest jobs across the country (some paid) [PSJD summer funding](#) page, which advertises stipends for work in a range of geographic areas and/or substantive issues. Deadlines vary and the list is updated periodically.