

## Spring 2024 Information for Host Organizations

### **About the Program**

The Long Career Launch Program (the “Program”) is designed to make it financially possible for recent graduates of The University of Texas School of Law to obtain legal work experience in unpaid internships while awaiting bar results and looking for permanent employment. Graduates who are selected to participate in the Program will receive a stipend to support work in an unpaid legal internship with a government agency or a 501(c)(3) public interest organization. Internships with judicial courts are not eligible. The Program is generously funded by a grant from the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Foundation.

### **Benefits to Host Organizations**

As an agency or organization that would not normally hire unlicensed attorneys or may not have the resources to pay interns, the Long Career Launch Program is a way to obtain much-needed legal assistance from outstanding Texas Law graduates. The Program increases access to justice in the community and promotes public service work among our graduates. Response from past participating host organizations has been overwhelmingly favorable as nearly 200 government agencies and public interest organizations have participated in the Program since its inception in 2008.

### **Graduates Eligible for the Program**

The Spring 2024 Long Career Launch Program is open to December 2023 J.D. graduates of the School of Law who will be taking the February 2023 bar exam. It is open only to those who have not yet secured offers of employment; it is not open to those who have secured jobs but have deferred start dates.

### **How the Program Works**

Graduates who are interested in participating in the Program secure an internship with an eligible organization, identify their supervising attorney at that organization, and then apply for a place in the Program. If selected, graduates complete the necessary paperwork and begin their internships. The number of applicants accepted into the Program depends on available funding; we expect selections to be competitive.

Sponsored interns are required to work a minimum of 300 hours to be completed during the period between the February bar exam and the publication of bar results in May. The internship must begin between February 26 and March 11, 2024 and end no later than May 3, 2024. Because it is our hope that Program recipients will simultaneously conduct a job search for long-term employment, this will allow them up to ten weeks to complete the 300 hours.

Since graduates will be seeking long-term employment, it is possible that an intern may find a permanent position and need to leave during the projected tenure of the internship. In such an instance, we encourage the intern and host organization to put in place a mutually agreeable transition plan. Although we don't expect an intern's job search process to materially interfere with his or her business-day work, we ask for flexibility to accommodate a possible job interview or minor job search-related interruption.

### **For More Information**

If you have any additional questions about the Long Career Launch Program, please contact Mindy Finnigan, Director of Professional Development, at 512-232-1163 or [mindy.finnigan@law.utexas.edu](mailto:mindy.finnigan@law.utexas.edu).