

Fall 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 more than 160 government agencies and public interest organizations have participated in the Program since its inception in 2008.

Graduates Eligible for the Program

The Fall 2024 Long Career Launch Program is open to May 2024 and August 2024 J.D. graduates of the School of Law who will be taking the July 2024 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 commit to working a minimum of 400 hours to be completed during the period between the July bar exam and the publication of bar results in November. The internship must begin between July 29-August 12 and end no later than November 27, 2024. Because it is our hope that Program recipients will simultaneously conduct a job search for long-term employment, this will allow them more than 17 weeks to complete the 400 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.

If you are interested in sponsoring an intern as part of the Long Career Launch Program, you may immediately begin posting a position on the Career Services Office's online Job Bank on Symplicity. We encourage you to post positions no later than Friday, March 29, with an application deadline of no later than Wednesday, April 10, 2024. As a potential host organization, you will have the opportunity to screen applicants before offering an internship. In addition, you may host multiple applicants.

Please note that graduates must apply to the Program by Wednesday, April 24, 2024 to receive priority consideration for funding. Graduates may continue to apply for funding through the Program after that date, however, those applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on available funding.

For a sample job posting, please see <https://law.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2015/06/lclp-jobposting-sample.pdf>.

For More Information

If you have any questions, please contact Mindy Finnigan, Director of Professional Development, at 512-232-1163 or mindy.finnigan@law.utexas.edu.