

CARIBBEAN PROTECTION UNIT LEGAL INTERN

Washington, DC

Application Deadline: 11/04/2016

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES - DC

<http://www.unhcr.ch>

Date Posted: 10/14/2016

Job Type: Internship

Schedule: Internship (Academic Year), Internship (Summer)

Experience: Student

Bar membership required: No

Practice Areas: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Community Economic Development, Immigration and Refugee, Incarcerated, International Human Rights, Policy

Job Description

Organization Description:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Washington Regional Office seeks legal interns and externs for its Caribbean Protection Unit.

The Caribbean Protection Unit protects and assists asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons in a particularly dynamic, unique, and challenging context. The Unit covers 27 different countries and territories in the Caribbean, the majority of which do not have functioning asylum systems. As a result, UNHCR works with governments in Caribbean countries to develop and strengthen their protections for asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons, conducts refugee status determinations for asylum-seekers, and monitors and reports on the treatment of refugees and stateless persons throughout the Caribbean region.

Position Description:

Legal interns will assist with casework and policy work related to the assistance and protection of asylum-seekers and refugees in the Caribbean. Summer legal internships and semester externships for school credit are divided into three terms: Spring (January – April), Summer (May – August) and Fall (September – December). Preference will be given to interns available for a minimum of 4 months or a maximum of 6 months.

Interns working with the Caribbean Protection Unit should have a legal background, or else be graduate students studying human rights, international affairs, political sciences or a related subject, with knowledge of international law. Students pursuing J.D. degrees should be in their second or third year of study, and have taken an international law or asylum law course.

Duties and Responsibilities:

While the precise tasks of interns vary, taking into account the dynamics of the Caribbean region and other Office priorities, as well as the specific skills, competencies and areas of interest of the respective intern, the main tasks in which interns at the Caribbean Protection Unit are involved are the following:

- Draft Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and appeal decisions for asylum-seekers in the Caribbean region, including country of origin research and legal analysis;
- Draft Advisory Opinions requested by Caribbean governments for pending asylum claims;
- Conduct research on local Caribbean immigration laws and procedures, asylum procedures, analysis of constitutional changes and best practices;
- Monitor news for maritime incidents and migration flows in the Caribbean; and
- Undertake special projects and translate documents and correspondence, as needed.

Qualifications and Experience:

While not being a formal requirement, any relevant work experience will be taken into account in the selection of interns. Candidates should furthermore demonstrate the following skills:

- Strong research, analytical and drafting skills;
- Excellent oral communication skills;
- Knowledge of UNHCR's mandate, international refugee and/or human rights law;
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision, as well as within a team;
- Good time management skills;
- A high level of computer proficiency, with familiarity with electronic databases preferred and proficiency with Microsoft Excel required; and
- Fluency in English required; fluency in a second language, such as Spanish or Arabic, preferred.

Intern Expectations:

Interns will participate in a range of activities within the Caribbean Protection Unit and will become familiar with the daily realities of working in a large humanitarian organization. The overarching objectives of the internship from the perspective of the intern are (i) to gain a deeper knowledge of the international legal frameworks governing the organization's interventions, particularly as they apply to the work of UNHCR in the Caribbean region; and (ii) to practice and develop legal writing and analysis skills and other professional working skills, such as project and time management, prioritization, team work, presentation skills, and drafting. The work of the interns therefore is not confined to a single research project, since interns are directly involved in all operational aspects of our work, including some elements of routine (e.g., maintenance of databases of information on asylum-seekers and refugees, assisting with special events, other administrative work).

Salary

Unpaid

Application Instructions:

Please send your complete applications, including your resume, cover letter with dates of availability, a brief writing sample, and a list of three professional references, to: UNHCR, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20036, via email at usawaint@unhcr.org and note in the subject line CARIBBEAN PROTECTION UNIT INTERNSHIP.

Application deadline: November 4, 2016

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