



*Although the listing states that this internship does not involve any legal work, if you are interested in child advocacy law, interning here would get your foot in the door of a relevant organization and allow you to learn more about the field and the organization -- and, most importantly, to network!*

Children's Law Center works to give every child in the District of Columbia a solid foundation of family, health, and education. They are the largest provider of free legal services in the District and the only to focus on children. The 80-person staff partners with local pro bono attorneys to serve more than 2,000 at-risk children each year. They use this expertise to advocate for changes in the District's laws, policies, and programs.

### **Responsibilities**

Interns are needed to provide support to Children's Law Center's communications and development departments on a full-time or part-time basis during the summer. Interns will gain hands-on experience in the areas of communications and development from small but active teams. Please note this position does not involve any legal work.

Ideally, this position would be filled from May to August, at least 20 hours a week. Dates and hours are negotiable. This position can be used for course credit when relevant.

### **Potential tasks include:**

- Preparing and posting website updates
- Editing, archiving, and/or deleting old web pages
- Proofreading and formatting documents
- Compiling informational packets for media or potential donors
- Maintaining an organized stock of in-house materials
- Researching relevant people, organizations, and programs
- Updating database records
- Assisting with mailings
- Setting up and/or staffing small events as needed
- Assisting with administrative tasks for CLC's annual fundraising benefit
- Helping research and organize benefit raffle
- Conducting other research projects as needed

### **Requirements and Qualifications**

Individuals with an interest in learning more about fundraising and with a strong background in communications, journalism, advertising or English are desired for this position. Applicants should have exceptional written communication skills as well as a high attention to detail. Proficiency in MS Office and database applications is necessary. Experience with updating a website and basic knowledge of HTML is strongly preferred. Basic skills in design applications such as Photoshop, InDesign, and Microsoft Publisher are a plus, as is event planning experience. Applicants may be current students, recent graduates, or experienced individuals with a strong work ethic.

### **How to Apply**

Send resume, cover letter, and two-page writing sample to [jobs@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:jobs@childrenslawcenter.org). Position is open until filled.

To learn more about the Children's Law Center, visit: [www.childrenslawcenter.org](http://www.childrenslawcenter.org)

#### **4. INTERVIEW: LAILA AMERI '10, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL 2L**

Laila Ameri '10 is currently a second year law student (2L) at the University of Pennsylvania Law School (Penn Law). At Penn Law, she is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Law & Social Change* and a U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow in Arabic. Laila also earned a Bergstrom Fellowship (from the University of Michigan for child advocacy) and Alan M. Lerner Summer Fellowship. Additionally, Laila is a data analyst at the American Civil Liberties Union. The summer following her first year of law school, Laila was a legal intern for the Committee for Public Counsel Services, Child and Family Law Division in Boston. This summer, Laila will be a summer associate at WilmerHale in Boston.

The year prior to matriculating to Penn Law, Laila was a Fulbright Research Scholar in Amman, Jordan. To that end, from September 2010 to December 2010, she was an Arabic language study grant recipient at the Qasid Institute; from January 2011 to July 2011, she was an American English Teacher at Hashemite University in Zarqa, Jordan; and from October to July 2011, Laila was an Interpreter and English Teacher at the Iraqi Aid Organization.

Laila graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* from Johns Hopkins University in 2010 with a B.A. in International Studies and as a member of Sigma Iota Rho, the International Studies Honors Society. While at JHU, she was co-chair of the Foreign Affairs Symposium and an active member of the Johns Hopkins Tutorial Project. The summers of 2009 and 2010, Laila was an English as a Second Language Teacher for the Refugee Youth Summer Enrichment Program in Boston.

#### **Questions**

##### **1) Describe a typical day as a 2L at Penn Law.**

On a typical day of school, I'll have anywhere from 2-4 classes. On Mondays, those classes for me would be Federal Indian Law, Arabic, Islamic Finance, and Trial Advocacy. On Tuesdays, those classes would be Corporations and Professional Responsibility. I might go to an event during lunchtime held by the school--they often bring in professors or practitioners to talk about their work. I usually have a ton of reading to do, and a lot of emails to sort through, so I do that in between classes. I am also the upcoming editor in chief for my journal, the *Journal of Law and Social Change*, so there are always meetings to go to and emails to answer just for that. I also usually run into friends at school, so we'll go to events together or hang out after the day is done.

##### **2) To date, what has been your favorite law school class, and why? How have you been choosing classes after your first year of law school?**

My two favorite law school classes have been Property and Constitutional Law. I loved both because my professors were great. In Property, my professor was interested in Intellectual Property Law, so he spent a lot more time teaching us about IP Law than about classical (more\_boring) Property Law concepts. He got us into interesting discussions, made very visual Powerpoints (which I appreciated because Law School could use a few more visual teaching methods), and was interested in his students. As a result, I love IP Law and am working for a firm this summer, WilmerHale, that specializes in IP Law.

I loved Con Law because Con Law is a very messy, very dynamic area of the law. I believe you can really see how social attitudes change just by learning Con Law. I also had a great, geeky professor who knew how to boil down a difficult subject (difficult because there are so many loose ends that the Supreme

Court has yet to tie up), point out its flaws, and make it into a coherent framework. Not many professors can really understand the law like that AND teach it.

After my first year of law school, I started choosing classes 1) based on reputation of the professor, 2) because I wanted to learn certain "core" subjects, like Corporations, Criminal Procedure, and Evidence, and 3) because I just had a random interest in it (like Native American Law, for example). I'm having trouble fitting in all the classes I want to take!

At Penn, I also take Arabic classes each semester, which is awesome! Penn Law allows you to take 4 classes total outside of the Law School during your time there, so I will take Arabic every semester during my 2L and 3L years.

### **3) What made you choose Penn Law? What do you see as the primary pros and cons of law school?**

I actually applied to Penn Law because of Ms. Droskoski! She knew about my interests in public interest/social justice work, my interests in Arabic and the Middle East, and my need to be in a city. She pointed out that Penn had a lot of the things I was looking for: clinics, Philadelphia, good classes, geographic flexibility in terms of employment options after law school, etc. I chose Penn Law for those reasons, and particularly because of its reputation as a very good law school. I liked the interdisciplinary theme at Penn Law, too -- they heavily supported getting a second degree, taking classes outside the law school, and doing a lot of pro bono work.

The primary pros of law school are that you get to learn a lot about lots of different subjects. This semester alone, I get to learn about Disney's board of directors one day, and then the history of Native American tribal land ownership the next. You certainly learn a new approach to reading and solving issues--you learn to read something and think about all the problems that could come up in the situation you're reading about. It makes you very risk averse, certainly!

The primary cons of law school are simply that it's really intense, and you have a lot of things going on at any one time. It's fun, don't get me wrong! But you are juggling classes that involve a lot of preparation, events, journal work, pro bono stuff, and job searches all at the same time. So it can be a lot. Having good energy and good friends at school helps a lot though!

### **4) What types of undergraduate opportunities did you pursue that led to your decision to apply to law school? Were there any experiences that you felt were particularly helpful in strengthening your application to law school?**

I spent a lot of time teaching in various forms while I was at Hopkins. I worked with the Tutorial Project, taught creative writing and film at ACCE High School in Hampden in Baltimore, and taught high school-age immigrants and refugees in Boston during summers. I studied abroad in Morocco and in Jordan, and co-chaired the Foreign Affairs Symposium. I think that all of those experiences, and particularly my interest in the Middle East and possibly pursuing refugee work, strengthened my application to law school. All of these activities had gotten me excited about law school because I thought law school would give me more tools to deal with social justice issues later on.

### **5) What did you pursue during your interim year(s)/before beginning law school, while in law school and during your law school summer(s)? How did you go about researching these opportunities?**

Between Hopkins and Penn, I won a Fulbright Research Scholarship to Amman, Jordan for one year (2010-2011). I had actually applied to Penn while at Hopkins, so I deferred Penn for a year because of Fulbright (which Penn was very supportive of!). During that time, I spent 4 months on a Critical Language Scholarship, which means I took about 25 hours of Arabic class per week. Afterwards, I taught American English at a university outside of Amman, volunteered with Iraqi refugees, and conducted research on the employment options of young women immediately following their graduations from high school and college. Dean Bader, the coordinator at the time for these kinds of scholarships, was an enormous help while I prepared my application.

The summer after my first year of law school, I worked for the Committee for Public Counsel Services' Child and Family Law Division in Boston, MA, where I'm from. CPCS CAFL is a division of the Massachusetts government, and works to represent parents and children in child welfare cases. So, I wrote a lot of memos on custody and visitation and observed many court cases. I actually found out about the opportunity because my boss for that summer was a Penn Law grad and had emailed my school asking if there were any Penn Law students interested in the position. The email was forwarded to all Penn students, and I jumped on it! I had been hoping to explore child welfare work for my first summer, so this was the perfect opportunity.

This upcoming summer I am working for a firm in Boston called WilmerHale. They specialize in Intellectual Property Law and Securities Law. They actually represented Apple in that big Apple-Samsung case. I'm pretty excited to keep going with my interests in IP Law! The opportunity to work for WilmerHale came through my school's on-campus recruiting process, called OCI, this past August. I interviewed with dozens of firms who came to campus to recruit Penn Law students, and WilmerHale ultimately worked out.

**6) How would you compare the reality of law school and the ensuing job search to the picture you had of it while an undergraduate?**

I think in a lot of ways I thought law school would be a continuation of college, which it isn't. This isn't a PhD program, this is professional school. So they are training you to be a lawyer, not an academic (though you can pursue academia eventually if you choose to, usually later on in your career). As a result, a law school like Penn will think constantly about how to get the most graduates into employment after graduation, which in many cases means big law firms. A lot of smaller niche areas of the law (and many government jobs) require several years of experience before they hire you, so it's important to realize what your employment picture looks like both in the short and long term.

**7) Do you have any advice for an undergraduate interested in pursuing law school and a career in law given your experience in today's legal market and now as a current law student?**

First and foremost, I would advise any undergraduate to spend significant time learning about what lawyers actually do. An internship is great, but even better is talking to all different kinds of lawyers, talking to lawyers in advocacy organizations, lawyers in big firm jobs, etc., to really get a picture of the range of legal work that's available. Don't choose law school just because you don't know what else to do with yourself! Law school is a major undertaking, and it's wonderful in a lot of ways, but it's also pretty tough. So do your research! The more research you do, and the more people you talk to, the better.

I would also advise any undergraduate to take some time to work in *any* field after graduation from Hopkins and before entering law school. Take 2-3 years even, to explore lots of different fields and just learn about the world: travel, do consulting, work for the government, teach, waitress, anything.

But at the very least, try to avoid going into law school straight after college. I say this because 1) it's a lot easier in law school to know what kinds of work opportunities you might like/what cities you might want to work in if you've actually worked full time for a couple years beforehand, and have started to think about cities you might like to live in and 2) law school funnels you into a very narrow legal market, at least right after law school, so it's good to know that you gave yourself some time to explore lots of different careers -- it'll keep you more sane while in law school (not to mention a much better job candidate because you've had work experience!).

I would also seriously recommend that any undergraduate have an honest conversation about debt. If you will be in a situation where you will graduate from law school with a lot of debt, just realize that a lot of your employment options will be dictated by how quickly it will pay off your debt. There are certainly scholarships out there, so it's good to plan for those! Moreover, some excellent applicants get money awarded to them by law schools, so it's a good idea to try to make your application the best it can be!

To that end, I would also recommend every Hopkins undergraduate to set aside a period of a few months when they know they can dedicate themselves to the LSAT. And there is no reason to stress out about the LSAT! The LSAT is just something that you need to practice on over and over again, and once you do that, you'll do great. But unfortunately law schools place a high value on LSAT scores these days, so just give yourself the best shot at it.

**Laila had this additional note for everyone:**

*"Hi! My name is Laila Ameri, and I am a second-year student at the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia, PA. I graduated from Johns Hopkins in 2010 and grew up outside of Boston, Massachusetts. Please feel free to contact me by email if you have any questions for me! My email is [lameri@law.upenn.edu](mailto:lameri@law.upenn.edu). Enjoy Hopkins, Blue Jays!"*

**5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Insiders Scoop: Recent Law School Graduates/Young Associates**

**Location:** Gilman 75

**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2013

**Time:** 5:30pm to 6:30pm

**Description:** JHU alumni will discuss what it was like to be a law student at their respective schools, summer experiences while in law school and what it is like to be an associate at a large firm, in a federal government agency, and counsel for an insurance company. They will also discuss the current, legal job market.

**Upcoming LSAT Administration**

**Location:** Check with LSAC for testing locations (next on campus/JHU LSAT administration – Monday, June 10, 2013).

**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2013

**Time:** Registration begins at 11.30a for the June exam – consult with LSAC for all controlling details.

~~~~~  
**STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING**

Ana L. Droscoski, J.D., Associate Director, Pre-Law Advisor, Pre-Dental & Pre-Health Advisor

David Verrier, Ph.D., Director, Pre-Health Advisor

Ellen Snyderman, M.S., Assistant Director, Pre-Health Advisor

Katie Cruit, M.S., Assistant Director, Pre-Nursing & Pre-Health Advisor

The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:

Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, [ckrause@jhu.edu](mailto:ckrause@jhu.edu) 410-516-6744

For students whose last name begins with A-L, contact Mrs. Krause.

LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, [ladytee@jhu.edu](mailto:ladytee@jhu.edu) 410-516-4140

For students whose last name begins with M-Z, contact Mrs. Sanders.

Angie Decker, Office Manager, [decker@jhu.edu](mailto:decker@jhu.edu)

Please feel free to use the resource library between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. every day or visit our website <http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/> for additional information.

Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.  
Associate Director  
Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Johns Hopkins University  
Garland Hall Suite 300  
3400 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Tel: 410.516.4140  
Fax: 410.516.4040  
email: [adrosco1@jhu.edu](mailto:adrosco1@jhu.edu)  
[web.jhu.edu/prepro](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro)