



Maida Summer Fellowship Partners Program 2017-2018

Return to Pam Mertsock-Wolfe at pmertsoc@camden.rutgers.edu by November 15, 2017

1. Organization name, address, phone and website:

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

P.O. Box 32040, Newark, NJ 07102

973-645-1955

<http://www.vljinj.org>

2. Name of supervising attorney, email, and direct phone:

Jessica Limbacher

jlimbacher@vljinj.org

973-645-1951 ext. 119

3. Description of your organization as you would like it to appear in our materials:

VLJ is a comprehensive, statewide legal assistance program based in Newark, New Jersey. VLJ's mission is to improve the lives of economically disadvantaged and at-risk adults, children, and families in New Jersey by empowering them with the tools, advice, and representation to obtain fair and equal treatment within the legal system. VLJ provides legal education, advice, and direct legal service to the over 400,000, or one out of three, New Jersey residents living at or below poverty who face a civil legal problem each year. With six attorneys on staff, VLJ works to leverage the most legal resources for low-income clients in need. Not only do VLJ's staff attorneys manage their own case loads, but they also recruit, train, and mentor hundreds of volunteer attorneys to provide legal services to thousands of clients per year. VLJ operates distinct legal projects in the areas of bankruptcy, consumer law, divorce, child support, landlord-tenant, education, prisoner reentry, trafficking victims legal assistance, and veterans' issues.

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4. Description of summer internship responsibilities and qualifications:

An internship with VLJ will provide law students with a unique opportunity to interview clients, draft pleadings and perform legal research. VLJ interns will be exposed to all of the legal issues handled by VLJ and interns attend our legal clinics, several of which are held at the Essex County Courthouse. VLJ coordinates clinics in consumer law, bankruptcy, divorce, child support, driver's license restoration, criminal record expungement and veterans' issues. In addition to working with VLJ staff and clients, interns also have the opportunity to work with VLJ's extensive pro bono attorney panel. Student interns work under the supervision of VLJ staff attorneys.

Applicants must have strong communication, advocacy, organization and writing skills. Previous experience working with low-income populations and/or people in crisis is preferred. Proficiency in Spanish is also a plus.

5. Do you want applications from current 1L students? Yes

Do you want applications from current 2L students? Yes

6. Required materials:

Resume X

Cover letter X

Transcript _____ (note that fall 2017 grades may not be available)

Writing sample _____ (specify requirements)

Other _____ (specify)



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7. We will try to accommodate your interview scheduling preferences. In order to plan:

a. Would you prefer to interview students in:

Newark on January 8, 2018

Camden on January 9, 2018

b. Would you prefer a series of interviews around:

8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

I understand that as a Maida Summer Fellowship Partner site, I will receive summer internship applications from interested Rutgers Law students by December 11, 2017; that I will interview on campus January 8 and/or 9, 2018 and select our top two candidates by January 17, 2018; that I will be matched with my first or second choice student, and that I will supervise at least one summer intern during summer 2018. In addition, as a Maida site, I will participate as requested in social justice events at Rutgers Law School in 2018-2019 .

Signature: /S/ Jessica Limbacher

Printed name: Jessica Limbacher

Title and organization: Staff Attorney, Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

Date: 11/15/17