

“Social justice should be the underlying goal of all humanity.”

-Alan V. Lowenstein, Institute Founder



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FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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do social justice.

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice Seeks Applicants for Summer and Term Internships

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice seeks dedicated, highly qualified law and/or graduate students for summer and term internships. Please submit inquiries or applications (comprised of a cover letter, resume, transcript (official or unofficial), three references, and a writing sample) to recruitment@njisj.org.

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice Legal Program

Established in 1999 by Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein, the Institute's dynamic and independent advocacy is aimed at toppling load-bearing walls of structural inequality to create equitable, vibrant, and healthy urban communities. We employ a broad range of advocacy tools to advance our ambitious urban agenda, including research, analysis, and writing, public education, grassroots organizing, communications, the development of pilot programs, legislative strategies, and litigation. Using a holistic approach to addressing the unique and critical issues facing urban communities of color, the Institute advocates for systemic reform that is at once transformative and achievable in New Jersey, and replicable in communities across the nation.

As the Institute celebrates 20 years on the front lines of social and racial justice, we are as committed as ever to empowering urban communities by advocating for equality of economic opportunity; ensuring full, equal, and active access to the democratic process; and advocating for fair, compassionate, and sensible criminal justice outcomes.

The Institute's programmatic focus rests upon three interconnected pillars:

1. Economic Mobility
2. Criminal Justice Reform
3. Civic Engagement

Internship Overview

Students interning with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice will work across our three pillars of work (economic mobility, criminal justice reform, or civic engagement), with close supervision and guidance from Institute attorneys. Descriptions of each of these pillars follow on the next page. Most of the students' work will focus on research, writing, and policy analysis, with the opportunity to assist with Institute legislative and policy advocacy, and the planning of Institute meetings, conferences, and community events. This is a general but not comprehensive list of the opportunities of the internship as the Institute's work also encompasses the development of pilot legal and policy reform projects, public education and mobilization.

The Institute partners with several university and law school programs that provide stipends to assist students during their internship. Students without funding support are eligible for an Institute-funded stipend. The Institute will provide necessary documentation so that interns may arrange for academic credit through their universities or for pro bono hours for their law school or state bar association. Prior to the start of your internship, please notify the Human Resources department and the Programs team if you are seeking academic credit or pro bono hours, so we may plan accordingly. All of our internships require a minimum commitment of 10 weeks, and up to 12 weeks, depending on each intern's availability.

Economic Mobility

Under our economic mobility pillar, the Institute works to ensure equality of economic opportunity for residents in our divested, urban communities through access to (1) employment, (2) housing in safe and healthy neighborhoods, and (3) wealth development, so that all people can realize their full potential and achieve the American dream. This pillar of our work aims to tackle persistent, multi-generational poverty in urban cities, particularly among people of color, by removing the legal and structural barriers to economic mobility, and addressing discrimination. As part of our economic mobility work, the Institute is a key partner in Newark 2020, a city-wide systems change initiative led by Mayor Ras J. Baraka and the City of Newark to connect 2,020 unemployed Newark residents with jobs that pay a living wage by December 2020. Beyond its numeric targets, Newark 2020 aims to fundamentally transform the city's workforce development system by better aligning its education and workforce training with the needs of employers, creating more career pathways for local residents to jobs that pay a living wage. The Institute is also committed to ensuring that all New Jersey residents have access to safe and quality housing. New Jersey currently leads the nation in home foreclosures and the state's communities of color were disproportionately affected by the housing crisis because they were targeted for predatory loans with high interest rates, fees and penalties. To address systemic housing discrimination in New Jersey, the Institute is developing statewide policy recommendations to, among other things, advance integrated housing patterns in the state.

Criminal Justice Reform

Through our criminal justice reform pillar, the Institute is working to create a rational and effective criminal justice system that (1) strengthens communities by treating people, particularly the most vulnerable among us, fairly and equitably; (2) provides alternatives to incarceration; (3) protects constitutional rights; (4) ensures racial equality; and (5) increases law enforcement responsiveness, accountability, and transparency. The Institute is a member of the Independent Monitoring Team overseeing reforms to the Newark Police Department in response to a federal consent decree entered into between the Department of Justice and the City of Newark. Through this work, the Institute is involved with policy reforms concerning use of force and bias-free policing and serves as the community liaison between the monitoring process and the Newark community. The Institute is also a leader in youth justice reform in New Jersey, spearheading the 150 Years is Enough Campaign, a statewide coalition that seeks to ensure fair outcomes for youth involved in the justice system. The campaign employs a multi-pronged approach that aims to (1) promote racial equality and fair treatment for all youth at all points of contact with the justice system; (2) end youth incarceration; and (3) invest funds into community-oriented alternatives to incarceration.

Civic Engagement

Our civic engagement pillar seeks to make the promise of democracy real in New Jersey by expanding the right to vote, reducing barriers to participation, and ensuring that communities of color are fully counted in the 2020 Census and afforded equal representation in the redistricting process. The Institute is working on a campaign to restore voting rights to all people in New Jersey with a criminal conviction, including individuals on parole, on probation, and in prison. The Institute also engages in a number of activities to encourage civic engagement and reduce barriers to participation including providing preelection opportunities for candidates to share their policy priorities and efforts to ensure fair districting in New Jersey. The Institute is leading the nonprofit outreach to New Jersey's African American communities for Census 2020 and is a member of the Census 2020 New Jersey Coalition. With our partners, we are committed to

ensuring a complete and accurate Census count in New Jersey's urban communities so residents receive fair and equitable representation in the redistricting process.

Interning in Newark

For individuals who are looking to gain substantive skills and develop their professional networks while advancing social justice, Newark is a great place to be. It is less than 30 minutes by train from Manhattan, Hoboken, Jersey City, and Montclair. Newark itself is galvanized by its young and dynamic local leadership and boasts an admirable and effective spirit of collaboration among nonprofit organizations, law firms, and local government officials.

The NJISJ is an equal opportunity employer, and we encourage applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, and veteran status .