

## **PUBLIC INTEREST CAREER PATH TIMELINE**

This handout breaks down by year and semester the things you should be doing to put yourself on track for a post-graduate career in the public interest field. The timeline will highlight for you the opportunities available to you through GW and programs you should participate in to reach your goals.

### **First Year**

#### **Fall**

##### **September/October:**

- Get involved with student organizations that interest you.
- Attend Pro Bono Fair.

##### **After November 1<sup>st</sup>:**

- E-mail Tamara Devieux-Adams ([tdadams@law.gwu.edu](mailto:tdadams@law.gwu.edu)) to sign up for Public Interest Listserv.
- Work with a CDO counselor to update your resume; accentuate your public interest/community service experience; highlight relevant undergraduate courses, written assignments, etc.; discuss your summer and public interest career path plans.
- Attend 1L Career Exploration Conference and other CDO programming.

#### **Winter Holiday Break/Early Spring**

- Consider places to work during your 1L summer, including internships with government or non-profit organizations. Do initial research on [www.pslawnet.org](http://www.pslawnet.org) and Symplicity. Consult Tamara Devieux-Adams, the Public Interest Career Counselor with additional questions.
- Consider volunteering (pro bono) legal services; contact Tamara Devieux-Adams ([tdadams@law.gwu.edu](mailto:tdadams@law.gwu.edu)), the Pro Bono Liaison, for assistance and to learn more about GW's Pro Bono Program.

#### **Spring**

- Attend CDO programming including Public Interest Week events and information sessions on Summer Subsidies and Fellowships.
- Attend DC Area Law Schools' Public Interest Retreat, Robert Cover, and Yale Rebellious Lawyering Retreats.

##### **February/March:**

- Participate in GW/Georgetown Public Sector Recruiting Program.
- Participate in GW Public Interest and Government Internships Fair.
- If you receive a summer job, research funding sources, including: GW-sponsored summer subsidies, Equal Justice Foundation (student organization) funding, and outside sources. Most sources require that you first have a job lined up. Deadlines for applications typically fall in late February through late March.

##### **April:**

- When registering for classes, consider clinics or Outside Placement (internships for academic credit) in line with your interests.

#### **Summer**

- Establish and maintain contacts in the public interest field. Network!

- Perform pro bono legal services.
- Think seriously about living on a public interest salary and how you can minimize debt now to ease your financial burden later. Take advantage of a summer internship by talking to colleagues about their financial choices.

## Second Year

### **Fall**

- Begin your 2L summer job search; if you haven't yet, meet with Tamara Devieux-Adams, the Public Interest Career Counselor to discuss long-term public interest plans, including fellowships. CDO's post-graduate fellowship guide, [www.pslawnet.org](http://www.pslawnet.org), and PSLawNet's Comprehensive Fellowship Guide (in CDO Library) are all helpful resources.
- Consider that a part-time job during the academic year may fit into your more flexible school schedule.
- Apply in early September to employers coming to the Equal Justice Works Career Fair (information will be available at [www.equaljusticeworks.org](http://www.equaljusticeworks.org)) and plan to attend the Fair in mid- to late-October.
- Direct write (apply directly to) employers of interest to you.
- Continue building your resume by participating in the Pro Bono Program and through involvement with public interest student organizations.

### **Spring**

- Continue your 2L summer job search.
- Attend GW/Georgetown Public Sector Recruiting Program and GW Public Interest and Government Internships Fair.
- Continue to direct write to employers of interest.
- Attend Summer Subsidy information session and apply for subsidies.
- Attend Fellowship information session. By this time, your 2L summer experience could help you land a fellowship, especially if you want to design a fellowship proposal with an organization's assistance.
- Attend 3L Shapiro Fellowship information session. These Fellows receive tuition remission in exchange for working in public interest during their 3L academic years.
- Contact previous post-graduate fellows (see alumni and faculty list).
- Attend DC Area Law Schools Public Interest Retreat, Robert Cover, and Yale Rebellious Lawyering Retreats.

### **Summer**

- Apply for 3L Shapiro Fellowship (late July deadline).
- Develop proposals for project-based fellowships through programs such as Equal Justice Works and Skadden.

## Third Year

### **Fall**

- Apply in early September to employers at Equal Justice Works Career Fair, and attend in mid- to late-October.
- Keep in mind that deadlines for Equal Justice Works and Skadden Fellowships are in September/October.

### **Spring**

- Apply for staff attorney and clinical fellowships with spring deadlines; continue pursuing non-fellowship public interest options.
- Consider applying for GW's Loan Reimbursement Assistance Program, which assists law graduates working in public interest jobs with repayment of law school loans.
- Complete and turn in Pro Bono hours to CDO before late April deadline to receive recognition at graduation.