AIDS Law of Louisiana, Inc.

AIDS Law of Louisiana provides free legal services to low-income persons living with HIV and AIDS. AIDS Law is the only organization in the state dedicated to addressing the legal needs of the affected community and has served more than 10,000 residents. AIDS Law of Louisiana, Inc. provides free assistance with HIV-related legal problems, including estate planning, issues of confidentiality and discrimination, child custody, and insurance and financial planning.

Baton Rouge Capital Conflict Office

The Baton Rouge Capital Conflict Office provides pre-trial and trial representation to indigents charged with capital crimes in Louisiana. BRCCO is appointed in cases in which the state is seeking the death penalty against multiple defendants and the local public defender’s office is only ethically able to represent one of the defendants. The second situation in which BRCCO is appointed is in single-defendant cases where there is no capital-qualified counsel available locally.

Homeless Advocacy (Baton Rouge)

The Homeless Advocacy Clinic (HAC), which is sponsored by Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless (CAAH), will offer a Social Security Disability Clinic (LAW 5625) in Spring 2015. The Clinic will also accept externs during the Summer Externship program (LAW 5905).

The HAC is staffed by an experienced attorney and a half-time psychologist and provides interdisciplinary representation to clients, primarily in Social Security and SSI disability cases, and Fair Housing Act cases. The HAC is located in the One Stop Homeless Services Center, an innovative facility which provides a range of services to homeless individuals including legal services. Students in this placement will represent clients in the Social Security disability system from application through administrative hearing. Students will also assist clients in overcoming barriers to housing. This is a very interesting and dynamic practice environment and will provide students with experience interviewing clients and potential witnesses, fact investigation and case development, working with an expert witness, and oral and written advocacy.

Federal Public Defender-Middle District of Louisiana (Baton Rouge)

The Federal public Defender represents all indigent defendants in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. The office handles cases assigned from the Middle District Judges from target letter, trial, and direct appeal through post-conviction. The Office works through the assigned Assistant Federal public Defender and private practice attorneys who are members of the Criminal Justice Act Panel and accept appointments from the office.
Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO)

Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO) represents innocent prisoners serving life sentences in Louisiana and Mississippi, and assists them with their transition into the free world upon their release. Most of our clients are poor, forgotten and all of them have used up all legal avenues for relief. IPNO works in the states with the country’s highest incarceration rates and the highest rates of wrongful conviction in the country. By identifying and remedying cases and causes of wrongful conviction, we engage in high impact, frontline advocacy in the courts of law and public opinion, and lead community-based responses into the mistakes made by our criminal justice system. This placement will require that the participating student travel to the New Orleans, Louisiana office of the IPNO to fulfill all required hours of fieldwork – i.e. field work cannot be performed “remotely.” IPNO considers only students who have taken Jim Boren’s class on criminal post-conviction relief or who otherwise have significant prior criminal law experience.

Louisiana 19th Judicial District Public Defender

The 19th JDC Defender Office’s attorneys represent indigent clients in criminal and juvenile cases in the eight sections of the 19th JDC Criminal District Court, in the two sections of Juvenile Court, as well as in City Courts in Baton Rouge, Baker and Zachary. The District Defender in the 19th JDC is Michael A. Mitchell, who has served in that position for fifteen years, and been a public defender in Louisiana for 22 years. Because of the nature of criminal court dockets in the 19th JDC and in order to get the most educational benefit from this placement, students should try to arrange their class schedules so that a substantial amount of their regular 8-10 hours per week working in this placement will be during the mornings Monday through Thursday, which is the busiest time for the criminal courts.

Louisiana 23rd Judicial District Public Defender

The office of the 23rd JDC Public Defender is located in Gonzales, Louisiana, Parish of Ascension. Students would assist the Public Defender.

Louisiana 15th Judicial District Public Defender

The office of the 15th Judicial District Public Defender is located in Lafayette, Louisiana, Parish of Lafayette. Students would assist the Public Defender.

Louisiana Mental Health Advocacy Service

The Louisiana Mental Health Advocacy Service (MHAS) is a statewide service established to provide legal counsel and representation to mentally disabled persons and to ensure that their legal rights are protected. The MHAS handles virtually every mental health commitment hearing in Louisiana and provides legal representation on matters pertaining to legal competency and patient rights. The MHAS also represents children in abuse and neglect cases in a number of large jurisdictions around the state, including East Baton Rouge Parish. The MHAS has its administrative Headquarters in Baton Rouge and operates five field offices around the state.
**Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (Baton Rouge office)**

SLLS is the largest public interest law firm in the state of Louisiana with offices in Hammond, Covington, New Orleans, and Marrero, Louisiana. SLLS’ Baton Rouge office provides civil legal services to low-income residents in a number of areas including, family law, consumer protection, housing, wills and successions, and public benefits. This is an excellent opportunity to gain experience in the wide variety of civil legal matters handled by SLLS’ attorneys.