

Summer 2026 Legal Internship

The Office of Capital & Forensic Writs (OCFW) is seeking bright and motivated law students interested in indigent defense and capital appeals to help develop claims on behalf of our clients. The OCFW is a statewide appellate public defender agency in Austin, Texas. Our legal interns will work as part of teams of attorneys, mitigation specialists, and paralegals representing clients sentenced to death or sentenced to terms of incarceration following junk-science-tainted trials.

Internships are unpaid, but OCFW works with applicants to obtain academic credit through their schools, and applicants may seek funding through their schools and other sources. People of color and persons from backgrounds that are underrepresented in the legal profession are especially encouraged to apply. This is an extraordinary opportunity to make a difference in Texas.

Under the supervision of the intern supervisor and case team leads, legal interns conduct investigation, develop research and writing skills, review and digest transcripts and records, and communicate with clients. Interns can expect to gain a broad understanding of how post-conviction capital representation works in Texas.

Legal interns at OCFW will participate in the following:

- Performing legal research and writing assignments, including drafting claims.
- Analyzing relevant records and anecdotes to develop information concerning the circumstances of the alleged crime and the client's life history. The types of records we collect include: medical, psychiatric, trauma history, educational, employment; military, social service, child protective service, genealogical, and criminal and civil legal records.
- Investigating religious, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic, racial, cultural and community influences, as well as socio-economic, historical and political factors affecting clients.
- Digesting trial transcripts and records collected into a comprehensive chronology of the client's life.
- Assisting with interviewing witnesses, including jurors, experts, the client's friends, family, teachers, neighbors, coworkers, etc.
- Communicating with clients.
- Collaborating with the team to develop themes and theories.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Clear commitment to the representation of death-sentenced persons, as well as persons from low-income and other marginalized communities;
- Attention to detail, organization, and accuracy;
- Desire to work as part of a team;
- Strong written and oral communication skills;
- Enthusiasm for complex research and analyzing voluminous records and data;
- Bilingual in Spanish and English.

Please apply via our website (cover letter, resume, and two references):

<https://ocfw.texas.gov/legal-internship>.

The Office of Capital & Forensic Writs is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any request for reasonable accommodations needed during the application process should be communicated by the applicant to Joy Right, the Office of Capital & Forensic Writs Senior Accountant, at joy.right@ocfw.texas.gov.