

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

March 15, 2024

WSBA Rural Practice Summer Internship Grant Pilot Program

This program aligns with the WSBA mission and is authorized through GR12.2(a)(2)&(8), by promoting an effective and accessible legal system and by administering programs of legal education. The purpose of this pilot internship program is to assist in building a pipeline of rural attorneys who will help narrow the legal services gap in rural communities throughout the State of Washington.

I. Timeline

- a. Internship duration: 8-10 weeks from June through August.
- b. Application Timeline - Open Applications as soon as possible with an application deadline of April 22nd. Select people by May 10th.

II. Qualifying Criteria for Applicants

- a. Applicants must be law students. Applicants must articulate plans to continue to practice in WA State after graduation and express and/or demonstrate interest in practicing in a rural community –preference will be given to law students *from* rural communities.
- b. This grant is supplemental to any required compensation or other aid a student is receiving from another source. Other sources of income and assistance will be factored into the selection decision.

III. Qualifying Employer

- a. Private practice law firm located in one of the rural counties delineated in the STAR Committee definition. Employer must attest that the bulk of work the intern performs will be dedicated to assisting individuals from underserved and underrepresented¹ groups within the rural community, with only a minimal amount of intern work assigned outside of these parameters.
- b. Legal Aid Organizations located in one of the rural counties delineated in the STAR Committee definition.
- c. Government legal offices located in one of the rural counties delineated in the STAR Committee definition.
- d. Position should be responsible for primarily serving rural community members, as described above.

IV. Other Considerations

- a. Amount of the grant: \$5,000.00.

¹These groups may face economic, geographical, cultural, or language barriers to legal services.



- b. Intern must work an approximate average of 30 hours per week for a minimum of eight weeks during the term of the internship.
- c. The offer and acceptance of the internship opportunity must be confirmed by the employer before disbursement of funds is made to the intern.
- d. The intern should be physically located in a rural community, but allowance may be given for remote service provided by interns who are directly serving clients in rural communities.
- e. The STAR Committee will designate a recommendation subcommittee to review applications and make recommendations. The entire STAR Committee will vote to approve the recommendations made by the recommendation subcommittee.
- f. We will offer up to nine grants in FY24.
- g. Successful completion of the internship will be confirmed with the employer by WSBA. If an intern does not start or finish their internship, then they may be required to return the funds based on an assessment by the WSBA STAR Committee.
- h. Applicants will be evaluated based on:
 - i. Articulated financial need and consideration of any other sources of support for the internship.
 - ii. Articulated or demonstrated commitment to practicing law in WA and in rural areas after graduation.
 - iii. Lived experience in a rural community.
 - iv. The Committee will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, sex, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.