

# Public Interest/ Public Service Law Career Path Timeline

## Ongoing

- **Attend Public Interest/ Public Service Law Events**  
Check out the [OCPD Program Calendar](#) and the [LSJI Public Interest Calendar](#)
- **Research, contact, and apply to employers of interest**
- **[Build your public interest/public service credentials](#)**  
Join student service groups; participate in externships, clinics, and journals; and explore opportunities for student leadership at the law school. Evening students may want to participate in the *Advocacy for the Elderly Clinic*.
- **Participate in the *Pro Bono Challenge***  
Complete 25, 50, or 75+ pro bono hours prior to graduation. Visit the CUA Law *pro bono* [website](#) and meet with the Pro Bono Coordinator. “Remote” pro bono opportunities are often available to Evening students.
- **Network, network, network!**  
Network and conduct informational interviews with public interest students, professors, and alumni.
- **Letters of Recommendation**  
Think about individuals who could write letters of recommendation (i.e., maintain contact with first year professors, volunteer to be a teaching or research assistant, and/or take on a directed research project).
- **Review online resources**
  - [Government Honors and Internship Handbook](#) (contact OCPD for username and password)
  - [Public Policy Handbook](#) (contact OCPD for username and password)
  - [USAJOBS](#)
  - [PSLawNet](#)
  - [Idealist](#)
  - [Symplicity](#)
- **Seek Summer Employment**
  - Meet with an OCPD career counselor to refine résumés and cover letters, as well as to practice mock interviews.
  - Attend OCPD's Public Interest/ Public Service Events.
  - Attend OCPD's Fellowship program.
  - Attend the CUA Externship & Clinics Fairs.
  - Consider working as a summer research assistant to a professor, taking on a directed research project, or serving as a teaching assistant.
  - Attend the [Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair](#) in **October**.
  - Attend OCPD's Summer Funding program in **November**.
  - Participate in the Greater Washington/Baltimore Public Service Career Fair in **January**.

# Public Interest/ Public Service Law Career Path Timeline

## 1L/ 1E/ 2E

- Begin learning about careers in public interest/ public service law.
  - Visit the website of [Equal Justice Works](#), an organization that provides training, support, and fellowships to students interested in public interest/ public service law.
  - Visit and register for a free account at [PSLawNet](#) and [Idealist](#).
  - Review *The Law School Guide to Public Interest Careers* and *Serving the Public: A Search Guide*, both of which are located in OCPD.
  - Review the Summer Experience binders in OCPD's office for information about summer opportunities.
  - After **November 1**, meet with an OCPD career advisor to update your résumé and discuss summer and public interest/ public service career path plans.
- Begin building your public interest/ public service law résumé.
  - Join a public interest or community service student group, such as the [Legal Services Society](#) or [Students for Public Interest Law](#).
  - Visit the CUA Law *pro bono* [website](#) and meet with the Pro Bono Coordinator to learn about area organizations in need of law student volunteers.
  - Develop relationships with individuals who may serve as references, such as professors, summer work supervisors, and area attorneys.
- Familiarize with the requirements for post-graduate fellowships.
- Prepare for 2L
  - Review Public Interest Law Course Offerings.
  - Consider participating in an externship/ clinic.
- Seek Summer Employment
  - Learn about Summer Funding Options.

## 2L/ 3E

- Begin your summer employment search.
  - Meet with an OCPD career counselor to discuss plans, refine résumés and cover letters, as well as to practice mock interviews.
  - Review the line-up of employers participating in On-Campus Interviewing (OCI) during the fall.
  - Learn about summer funding options.
- Continue building your public interest résumé.
  - Visit the CUA Law *pro bono* website and sign up for Pro Bono Projects on TWEN.
- **If you are considering applying for judicial clerkships:**
  - Be aware of upcoming deadlines for federal and state court applications, and consult OCPD's clerkships website for more information.
  - Sign up for "Judicial Clerkships" on TWEN.
  - Sign up for OCPD's Clerkship Listserv.

## Public Interest/ Public Service Law Career Path Timeline

- Attend fall information session.
- Attend spring “nuts and bolts” session.
- Meet with advisors Beth Winston and Megan Labelle during the spring semester.
- If you are interested in a judicial clerkship, begin the application process during the **spring** semester.
  - Be aware of upcoming government honors deadlines, which usually begin at the end of August. For example, the Department of Justice Attorney General's Honors Program deadline is the beginning of September.
  - Secure recommendations.
  - Put together a list of judges.
  - Write cover letters during the summer.
  - Submit applications by the end of August.
- **If you are considering applying for post-graduate fellowships:**
  - Attend OCPD's Fellowship Program and follow up with an OCPD career advisor to target your search.
  - Resources are available in the OCPD office to assist you with the application process (see OCPD's *Funding for Summer Work* and *Fellowship Opportunities* handouts).
- If you are interested in a post-graduate fellowship, begin the application process during the **summer**.
  - Make a calendar of relevant dates and deadlines.
  - Research Equal Justice Works deadlines.
  - Research placement and funding opportunities on PSLawNet.
  - **For project fellowships:**
    - Secure a sponsoring organization.
    - Prepare funding applications.
    - Submit Equal Justice Works and Skadden Fellowship applications (normally due mid-September).
  - **For organizational fellowships and staff attorney positions:**
    - Review PSLawNet's Fellowship Calendar and make a calendar of deadlines.
    - Prepare and submit applications.
- Prepare for 3L
  - Review Public Interest Law Course Offerings.
  - Consider participating in an externship/ clinic.

### 3L/4E

- Continue Networking!
- Continue building your public interest résumé.
  - Consider participating in an externship or clinic.
  - Continue participation in Pro Bono Projects.
- Secure references from summer jobs, externships, and volunteer activities.
- Complete and submit post-graduate fellowship applications.
- Participate in bar prep activities.