

Law Student Opportunities

Public Rights Division

Civil Rights Enforcement Section, Underground Economy Unit: Los Angeles



The Underground Economy Unit of the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, has volunteer extern opportunities available for undergraduate and law school students in its Los Angeles Office.

The Underground Economy Unit, which is part of the Civil Rights Enforcement Section, brings civil and criminal actions to protect workers and uphold workplace standards. The Unit has used California's Unfair Competition law to obtain restitution of unpaid wages, civil penalties, and injunctions to bring businesses into compliance with applicable labor and employment, tax, and insurance laws.

The Unit engages in a broad array of work ranging from initiating investigations into unscrupulous industries and employers who may be exploiting the State's most vulnerable workers, pursuing civil litigation and criminal prosecution to enforce California's wage and hour laws, authoring amicus briefs, submitting comments in response to proposed federal rules and regulations, and monitoring proposed legislation regarding labor and employment matters.

The Underground Economy Unit works closely with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies including the California Department of Industrial Relations - Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Employment Development Department, and the United States Department of Labor. It also coordinates its efforts with other sections of the Attorney General's Office.

Student externs will assist deputies by reviewing and assessing evidence in investigations and related projects and preparing written memoranda on a broad range of complex legal issues. Externs may also assist with witness interviews and may attend court hearings.

The Underground Economy Unit will accept applications from undergraduate and law school students, as well as law school graduates willing to volunteer their services. Volunteer applicants must have excellent writing, research and analytical skills. Hours are flexible, but students must be able to work at least two full work days per week. Language skills are preferred, but not required.

How to Apply:

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample via e-mail to:

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