

# Washington Summer Program Internship #11

## Dept of Justice, Civil Rights, Voting Section

Hi Summer Students

See below and attached for an internship with the Dept of Justice Voting Section. You MUST be a US citizen and able to pass a background check. Please apply promptly if interested as clearances can take 6 weeks. Let me know if you apply. Thanks. - sl

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The Voting Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice is looking for undergraduate interns for the spring (April-June) and summer (June-August) quarter. In order to apply for an internship, please send your cover letter and resume to Nicole Thorpe (Nicole.Thorpe@usdoj.gov). For more information about what we do, please look at our website. <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting/index.htm> . I have also attached a brief description of what is expected of interns. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please forward this email. Thanks.



## U.S. Department of Justice

### Civil Rights Division

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*Voting Section - NWB.  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530*

#### **INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES VOTING SECTION, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION**

As part of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, the Voting Section enforces federal civil rights voting laws, including the Voting Rights Act. These laws are designed to safeguard the right to vote of racial and language minorities, persons with disabilities, illiterate persons, overseas citizens, persons who change their residence shortly before a presidential election, and persons 18 to 20 years of age.

The Voting Section enforces these laws through litigation in the federal district courts and, for states and counties that are covered by the special provisions of the Voting Rights Act, through administrative actions. These administrative actions include (1) the review of changes that are made in state and local voting practices and procedures, and (2) the assignment of federal observers to monitor polling place activities.

Most interns who work in the Voting Section do analysis work on voting changes submitted by jurisdictions that are specially covered under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. This special coverage applies mainly to states in the South and Southwest. The analysis review is conducted to determine whether changes in voting practices and procedures that are made by the states, their counties, cities, school districts, and other political units have the purpose or will have the effect of denying or abridging the right of minorities to vote.

Each intern is assigned to review a number of submissions during the internship. Each submission involves one or more changes that affect voting, such as changes in polling place locations, expansions of voter registration opportunities, the implementation of special election and minority language election procedures, and annexations by municipalities. Interns receive detailed training in the analysis of voting changes from a senior civil rights analyst who also conducts the first-level review of the interns' work throughout their internship. For each submission interns (1) research the Voting Section's files on past submissions of voting changes, (2) obtain relevant census data, (3) study the materials submitted with respect to the particular voting changes involved, (4) speak by telephone with government officials and minority community members in the affected jurisdictions to obtain more detail or clarification regarding the voting changes under review, and (5) write a factual presentation that enables supervising attorneys to determine whether the voting changes are discriminatory in purpose or effect on the basis of race, color or membership in a language minority group.

In addition, prior to major elections in states that are covered under the "special" provisions of the Voting Rights Act, interns spend several days conducting telephone surveys of county officials to obtain information that can lead to the assignment of federal observers to monitor procedures inside polling places on election day.

In some instances an intern will work primarily with Voting Section attorneys and paralegals researching sources, such as newspaper articles and minutes of county or city council meetings, to extract information that is needed to prepare trial exhibits in pending litigation under the Voting Rights Act. Such assignments are infrequent, however, and persons who are assigned to such litigation-connected work usually do not have the opportunity also to review submissions of voting changes. Instruction and supervision of interns whose work is related to litigation are provided by the attorneys and paralegals who are responsible for the particular case.

Applications for this internship should be made early because they can take at least 4 to 6 weeks to process. Interns must be United States citizens. For further information, contact Nicole Thorpe at 202/514-6334 or 800/253-3931, x46334; you can also reach her by email at: [nicole.thorpe@usdoj.gov](mailto:nicole.thorpe@usdoj.gov); or by telefacsimile at: 202-616-9514. You may also review the Voting Section's webpage at: [www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting).