Make the connection between law school & equal justice.

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS
Helping Lawyers Help Community

PLAN YOUR PUBLIC INTEREST CAREER

TIMELINE

FIRST YEAR		
Fall	Expand your knowledge of public interest subject areas by attending educational panels and on-campus events.	☐
	Become involved with student organizations and introduce yourself to alumni and others working in your interest areas. Participate in volunteer opportunities and pro bono projects. Sign up with **Equal Justice Works** to learn more.	☐
	Attend **Equal Justice Works** annual Conference and Career Fair to meet public interest students and begin investigating public interest organizations from across the country.	☐
	Start your summer internship search: log on to your school's jobs database, draft your resume in law school format, and sign up for PSJD and Idealist.	☐
	Meet with a career counselor to review your resume, discuss goals for the summer, and get advice on your public interest career path. Be sure to ask if there is a counselor at your school with expertise in public interest job searches.	☐
	After December 1, begin applying for summer internships.	☐
	Contact employers you would like to meet to schedule informational interviews during winter break.	☐
	Continue conducting your summer search for an internship and summer job during winter break.	☐
Spring	Continue to build credentials by getting involved in public interest student groups and participating in pro bono opportunities.	☐
	Attend local public interest career fairs. If your school does not participate in or host one, ask a career counselor about alternatives.	☐
	Research and apply for internal and external summer funding to support public interest work. Apply to **Equal Justice Works** AmeriCorps JD.	☐
	Attend information sessions on opportunities for 2Ls: externships, clinics, Street Law, and issue-specific courses.	☐
	Gain as much experience from your activities as you can. Take advantage of brown bag lunches or other educational/networking opportunities offered by your school and student organizations.	☐
Summer	Utilize your summer to focus on gaining skills that will assist you in your career and your 2L and postgraduate job searches.	☐
	Consider whether your summer employer is a potential postgraduate employer or fellowship sponsor.	☐
	Attempt to draft a writing sample through your summer position. Gain as much experience as you can. Take advantage of brown bag lunches or other educational/networking opportunities.	☐
	Determine whether you want to explore a new area in 2L summer or deepen prior experience. Begin your 2L summer internship search.	☐
	Participate in recruitment/on-campus interviews (OCI) and submit direct applications. Remember to research organizations and government agencies that recruit in early fall.	☐

SECOND YEAR		
Fall	Continue your search for 2L summer position.	☐
	As one factor in your search, determine whether organizations have postgraduate opportunities. Do they regularly hire staff attorneys, have their own fellowship or successfully sponsor externally-funded fellowships like **Equal Justice Works**?	☐
	Meet with a career counselor to discuss long-term plans and how they relate to 2L summer. Ask about information sessions and/or counseling services regarding postgraduate fellowships.	☐
	Continue participation in public interest student groups and pro bono opportunities. Take on leadership roles in these groups and projects.	☐
	Engage in networking opportunities to discuss future career plans and discover job opportunities.	☐
	Attend the annual **Equal Justice Works** Conference and Career Fair and interview with employers.	☐
	Attend public interest events, panels, and networking opportunities hosted by your school.	☐
Spring	Attend your local public interest career fair and continue to check PSJD, Idealist, and your school's jobs database for job postings.	☐
	Engage in networking opportunities to discuss career plans and discover job opportunities.	☐
	Attend any available programming regarding postgraduate fellowships.	☐
	Research and apply for internal and external summer funding. Apply to **Equal Justice Works** AmeriCorps JD.	☐
	If considering postgraduate judicial clerkships, meet with a career counselor and discuss the upcoming application process.	☐
Summer	Make connections and maintain a good relationship with your supervisor. These contacts can be crucial to postgraduate employment and long-term career success.	☐
	If applying for fellowships, meet with a counselor to discuss the application process.	☐
	Draft a writing sample to use for future employment opportunities. Work hard to get as much experience as you can and hone skills you've begun to develop.	☐
	Apply to judicial clerkships and postgraduate fellowships with fall deadlines.	☐
	Review on-campus interview deadlines and Government Honors Programs deadlines.	☐
THIRD YEAR		
Fall	Meet with counselor to plan postgraduate job strategy and update your resume. Sign up to receive job postings from PSJD and Idealist and attend the annual **Equal Justice Works** Conference and Career Fair.	☐
	Continue participation in public interest student groups and pro bono opportunities. Take on leadership roles in these groups and projects.	☐
Spring/ Summer	Apply for fellowships with spring deadlines. Utilize your career services office and advisors.	☐
	Apply for jobs that post announcements in spring and summer. Utilize your career services office and advisors. Apply for **Equal Justice Works** AmeriCorps Legal Fellowships.	☐
	Study for the bar. Public interest organizations often hire only after applicants pass the bar exam.	☐

http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/law-school