

**Administrative Office of the Courts
Department Family Administration
Foster Care Court Improvement Project
Internship**

Opening Date: January 24, 2007

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Job Title: Foster Care Court Improvement Project Intern

Location: Administrative Office of the Courts, Annapolis, Maryland

BACKGROUND:

The Maryland Judiciary's Foster Care Court Improvement Project (FCCIP) works to improve the performance of juvenile courts in processing child-in-need-of-assistance (CINA) and related termination of parental rights (TPR) and adoption matters. The FCCIP is comprised of juvenile court judges and masters, court personnel, representatives of social service agencies, attorneys, and others with expertise in child welfare. Recently, the FCCIP underwent an evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the project since its inception and also the entire state's child welfare system was examined through the federal Child and Family Service Review (CFSR). Additionally, the FCCIP just completed statewide multi-disciplinary trainings to address practice concerns. As a consequence of the recent activities, the FCCIP is currently working toward implementing recommendations from the trainings, the evaluation and federal review process.

DUTIES:

The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following: general legal research relating to Child In Need of Assistance, Termination of Parental Rights, and related Adoptions matters; assist with collecting, monitoring and analyzing statewide data including examining the Maryland expedited appellate process in CINA and TPR matters; barriers to permanency for foster children; and the implementation of "best practice" in CINA and TPR courts; additionally the intern will support the FCCIP with special projects, court observations, file reviews and drafting reports.

The internship period is approximately three to four months and corresponds roughly to the Fall, Spring or Summer semester of the standard academic year. Interns should be able to work a minimum of 15-20 hours per week. Specific work hours can be determined between the intern and the FCCIP.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must have completed at least one semester of study at an accredited law school. Candidates must be a current student in good academic standing and possess excellent writing skills. Law school transcript, writing sample and references to be provided upon request.

Position is open until filled. Accepting applications for spring and summer semesters. Send cover letters and resumes to:

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Foster Care Court Improvement Project
Administrative Office of the Courts
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Internships are unpaid. The program will provide a unique opportunity for law students to work directly with enhancing the court process for families involved in CINA and TPR matters at the circuit court and appellate level. The interns may have the opportunity to meet and work with judges, masters, attorneys and other court personnel throughout the state of Maryland. If applicable, the FCCIP will also work with interns and universities to ensure appropriate course credit is given.