



CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

2026 Legal Clerkship Program

WHO – CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

The California Women's Law Center (CWLC), founded in 1989, works to build a more just and equitable society by breaking down barriers and advancing the potential of women and girls. CWLC pursues this mission through litigation, policy advocacy, and education, and focuses its efforts around four core areas: gender discrimination, violence against women, women's economic security, and women's health and reproductive rights. Based in Southern California, CWLC serves the entire state, in particular supporting low-income women, girls, and communities of color.

WHY CLERK WITH CWLC

Clerks work directly with CWLC attorneys and staff, take ownership of substantive projects, and see work put to use in active cases and other projects. CWLC is committed to shaping clerk experiences around each student's interests and goals. CWLC also offers training and networking opportunities as well as the chance to be part of cutting edge gender equity advocacy in California and beyond.

WHAT CLERKS DO

- Support the legal team on all aspects of CWLC's work from legal research, legal writing, participating in strategy meetings, legal negotiation meetings, site visits, policy-oriented tasks, and more.
- Participate in timely and interesting legal trainings organized by CWLC and other legal aid and similar nonprofits.
- Draft letters, briefs, and memos, and conduct cite-checking work.
- Engage in policy advocacy, help track pending legislation, and draft legislative support and opposition letters while coordinating with partner organizations at the local, state, and federal level.
- Write public-facing content on issues of importance, such as a blog or social media post.
- Complete a longer research paper, such as a legal memo or policy white paper, to use as a writing sample.
- Assist with intake calls and referrals for individuals and organizations seeking help.
- Help develop legal trainings for the communities and organizations CWLC serves and supports.
- Contribute to other projects that advance CWLC's mission as needs arise.

TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP

Law clerks receive hands-on training from CWLC attorneys and other advocates on the laws, regulations, and systems relevant to the communities CWLC serves, along with in-depth sessions as part of CWLC summer “Brown Bag” Training Series. Clerks have a dedicated legal supervisor for regular check-ins on projects, progress, and goals. Every attorney on CWLC’s team, including the Legal Director, is available as a resource and mentor throughout the clerkship. As schedules permit, community and social events take place, with an aim toward helping clerks become familiar with the legal aid landscape, wider networks, and opportunities.



REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Fall and spring internships are part-time, requiring approximately 10 to 16 hours per week. Summer clerkships are full-time, over a ~10-week period. Both semester and summer clerkships are ideally hybrid, although fully virtual arrangements will be considered upon request in light of CWLC’s statewide legal support services and work. Strong research, writing, communication skills, and a commitment to legal aid and/or gender justice are required.

COMPENSATION

Compensation is available for students who are not receiving course credit. CWLC works with law schools to arrange credit or work study.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates should email a cover letter, resume, transcript, and writing sample to cwlc@cwlc.org. In the subject line, note "Legal Clerk Applicant" along with the session, such as fall, spring, or summer. Applications are considered on a rolling basis, and can be received through sites such as 12twenty.

CWLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. All employment decisions are based on business needs, job requirements, and individual qualifications.