

STUDENTS FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW (SPIL) STIPEND

In 1989, Students for Public Interest Law (SPIL) was organized by students at The Columbus School of Law to encourage students to pursue legal careers serving the public. SPIL is an affiliate of the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL).

Since its inception, SPIL has demonstrated its commitment to diverse areas of public service by raising funds for summer stipends. The SPIL Stipend provides income to students who choose to spend their summer rendering legal services in the public interest for little or no compensation.

Questions about this program should be directed to either the Financial Aid Office or members of the SPIL organization. Many past SPIL stipend recipients are willing to answer questions.

APPLICATION FLOW AND INFORMATION FOR THE SUMMER STIPEND PROGRAMS

The Law School Financial Aid Office distributes and collects applications for all the stipends and fellowships and administers the biweekly payment for the students through the University Payroll Office. Applications are available from the Financial Aid Office (314), Legal Career Services (163), and the Law Library (near circulation desk).

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must meet all following criterion:

1. Student currently enrolled in CUA's law school and not graduating this spring or summer.
2. Student has been offered a position OR is a serious candidate under consideration for a position in a non-profit or government agency. The student must show in the application documents that the placement has agreed to give the student a full-time or part-time position (or is strongly considering it). The mission of the employing agency must be compatible with the mission of the University.
3. Student must be working for a public interest organization. For SPIL: "Public interest organization is defined as:
 - (1) a non-profit organization which provides legal services to under-represented groups or causes in society; or
 - (2) a government agency. SPIL has broadly defined "public interest organization" in order to demonstrate its commitment to diverse areas of public service. This definition does not preclude applications for SPIL stipends for judicial clerkships and congressional internships, but these types of placements have not been highly ranked in past selections.

NOTE: Recipients of a SPIL stipend are not allowed to 'split' their award between two placements, nor are they allowed to change their placement after being selected as a recipient. Your placement is a large part of what the decision is based on and therefore you cannot change your placement.

Selection Process

The SPIL Stipend Selection Committee will review the applications and select the recipients.

The Committee will evaluate the SPIL applications to determine which ones best support the goals of SPIL. The Committee will consider the following factors:

- a.) The applicant's demonstrated personal commitment to public interest law;
- b.) The applicant's contribution to SPIL;
- c.) The degree to which the legal services provided by the applicant would benefit under-represented groups or causes;
- d.) The legal experience to be gained from the position; and

The Committee members will rank each application based on the above criteria. Also, the diversity of placements will be taken into account in the selection process because SPIL wants to place students in a variety of organizations. Thus, if five students apply to work on the same placement project, the committee likely will not award five stipends to the same placement, even if the quality of individual student applications is excellent. However, the Committee does have the option to award more than one stipend to a particular organization if it so chooses.

Students receiving a 2012, Students for Public Interest Law (SPIL) summer work stipend are expected to complete no fewer than fifteen (15) hours of volunteer work for SPIL during the 2011-2012 academic year – five (5) Auction Hours, five (5) Community Service Hours, and five (5) General SPIL Hours. (This work will be assigned by the president of SPIL and the Auction chairs in accordance to the needs of the Annual SPIL Auction. Any alternative fulfillment of the 15 hours must be approved by the aforementioned SPIL officers). A contract detailing the auction work expected will be presented to the SPIL Stipend recipients for signature upon notification of selection by the Stipend Selection Committee.

Application Deadlines and Recipient Announcements

March TBD 2012, 5:00 p.m. Applications for SPIL stipends must be received with all attachments no later than 5:00 p.m. on March TBD 2012 in the Law School Office of Financial Aid, Room 314.

April TBD 2012. SPIL Stipend selections will be posted in several locations in the Law School including on the SPIL bulletin board, above the student mail folders, in Headnotes and on the Financial Aid Office bulletin board.

***** NOTE *** The Conditions within the employment contract**

- a. You and your supervisor must sign the time-sheet for every pay period.
- b. You will not be paid for hours exceeding the contracted number even if your supervisor signs your time sheet.
- c. Notice the specific days time sheets are due in the Financial Aid Office. If time sheets are not received by those dates and times, a paycheck will be delayed until the following pay period.
- d. Stipend recipients will only be paid for 40 hours per week.
- e. If you are working elsewhere on campus (i.e. the law library or as a research assistant) for which you are being paid through the university, you must coordinate your hours so as not to exceed 40 hours per week.
- f. By accepting this award, you are agreeing to commit fifteen (15) hours to SPIL in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Applications will be available in late February.