



TeamChild Youth Law and Policy Internship: Summer 2010

TEAMCHILD

TeamChild is a nationally recognized, innovative civil legal aid program serving low income youth. TeamChild's clients are 12-18 years old, with a focus on youth who are involved in, or at risk for involvement in, the juvenile justice system. TeamChild attorneys provide free legal representation on youth's civil legal rights in the community, including the right to education, mental health and medical treatment, safe living circumstances and other social services. Our advocacy for youth targets the root causes of juvenile delinquency and aims to give juvenile courts effective, community based alternatives to secure detention. TeamChild strives to inform and empower youth about their legal rights in the community and to bridge the gap between our clients, their families, and the systems that serve them. At the individual level, our goal is to help clients achieve better outcomes in their lives. At a systems level, our advocacy ensures that the policies and practices used by agencies serving youth are responsive to the individuals they aim to serve.

2010 LAW AND POLICY FOCUS:

The Connection Between School Discipline and the Juvenile Justice System

TeamChild seeks law students to fill 2-3 full-time positions for the 2010 summer law and policy internship. Interns will be located in the Seattle office of TeamChild. For the past two summers, TeamChild has hosted a team of local youth and law students to address the connection between school discipline practices and the juvenile justice system. This phenomenon is known nationally as the school to prison pipeline. Visit www.teamchild.org/stp to learn more. Law interns will work collaboratively with a team of local youth to complete a project identified by staff attorneys at TeamChild based on emerging legal issues. This project will affect policy change at the local, state or national level to address school discipline practices that feed the school to prison pipeline in Washington. Throughout the summer, interns will have the opportunity to research and analyze relevant legal issues in the context of public education, and to learn how policies and laws are developed in this field.

FUNDING AND QUALIFICATIONS

Ten weeks, full time commitment required. Must have a demonstrated commitment to working for the rights of low income or otherwise disenfranchised people, and in particular, youth. Must have excellent writing and oral advocacy skills and an interest and ability to creatively problem solve. Must be respectful and open to working with people from diverse backgrounds, committed to strengthening community and organizational partnerships, and able to work well both as a team member and independently. Summer internships at TeamChild are unpaid. Applicants are responsible for securing public interest grants/stipends on their own. Law school credit may also be available.

APPLICATION

To apply, send a cover letter, resume and writing sample by **February 1, 2010** to: Caroline Tillier, Program Advocate, TeamChild, 1225 South Weller Street, Suite 420, Seattle, WA 98144. Cover letters should address the following questions: *Why are you interested in working with TeamChild? What interests you about this Youth Law and Policy Internship and what do you hope to gain from the internship experience?* Interns will be selected by **February 28, 2010**. Questions? Email caroline.tillier@teamchild.org

TeamChild is committed to promoting an environment free of barriers and discriminatory practices for its clients, Board and staff.

Serving Youth in Benton/Franklin ♦ King ♦ Pierce ♦ Snohomish ♦ Spokane ♦ Yakima Counties

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