INVESTIGATIVE INTERNSHIP
AT THE NEW ORLEANS JUVENILE PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights (LCCR), which acts as the juvenile public defender in New Orleans, seeks investigative interns to assist in finding and developing material for the defense of LCCR clients. The work of investigators is carried out mostly in the field – in private homes, in schools, in businesses, in the community – and requires creativity, perseverance, empathy, responsibility, and excellent communication skills. Strong candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to working with indigent youth and underprivileged communities.

Organizational Overview

Through direct representation and policy advocacy, we fight to keep children out of the justice system so that they can thrive in their homes and communities. Our work includes:

**Juvenile Defense:** As the juvenile public defender in New Orleans, we represent over 90% of children in the city who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. We provide each child with a holistic team – a lawyer, social worker, investigator, and youth advocate – to address both the causes and consequences of an arrest.

**Juvenile Life Without Parole:** We represent the majority of children in Louisiana who are facing or serving life without parole sentences, which the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional in all but the rarest cases. We know that children can and do change for the better, so we fight to ensure that they may one day have an opportunity for release.

**State and Local Advocacy:** We advocate for policies that reduce the number of children in the justice system and provide better alternatives to arrest and incarceration. For the kids who do enter the system, we support policies that keep them safe, protect their rights, and get them home as soon as possible.

Position Responsibilities

- Locating and interviewing witnesses;
- Taking witness statements;
- Photographing crime scenes;
- Writing investigative reports;
- Testifying in court;
- Performing background checks;
- Obtaining and analyzing police records and body camera footage; and
- Assisting attorneys throughout the trial preparation process.

Qualifications and Eligibility Requirements

We do not require either a specific academic background or prior experience in criminal investigation. All investigative interns will be trained in proper defense investigation.
techniques. Qualities we typically see in successful interns include having a work ethic, listening skills, making judgment calls in the moment, empathy, and commitment to working with our diverse community here in New Orleans.

We will pair each intern with a partner. Interns will set their own schedules in consultation with their supervisors.

Candidates must have transportation and access to a computer.

This unpaid internship requires a minimum commitment of 12 hours per week for at least twelve weeks or as the semester permits (for those who are full time students) with the understanding of potential trial testimony post-internship. We will work with qualified candidates to help secure any funding or academic credit that is available through their institutions.

**Application Instructions**

Please email a brief statement of interest (no more than 500 words) and resume to Miguel Nunez, mnunez@laccr.org. Please include the position title in the email subject line. Please do not call with inquiries. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.