

Paid Public Service Internships: Who Foots the Bill and Why it Matters

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Who should pay law students for their public service summer internships?



For law schools - how do you fund your summer funding program?



Approximately how much do you pay your students for their summer internships?



AGENDA

What we'll cover in this session

- Current situation for summer public service interns
- Challenges law schools are facing
- Challenges employers are facing
- How some employers make paying their interns work
- Solutions and how to get involved

Impact on Students

- Skyrocketing cost of living and tuition
- So hard just to get paid
- Working part-time jobs in addition to internships
- Needing parental support
- Losing interest in public service





Challenges to law schools

- Tuition keeps rising and budgets keep shrinking
- Fundraising is a huge undertaking
- Running summer funding programs is also a huge undertaking
- Will Federal Work Study continue?!
- Pay disparity between schools



What does fundraising look like for law schools?

- Explaining the value to donors
- Fundraising events and auctions
- Endowed funds
- Competing with other fundraising initiatives at the law school
- Student involvement in fundraising

We Can Do It!



Why we should value student labor

- Labor is being provided to employers
- Good business model
- Valuing fair wages
- Same as any other employee
- Great recruitment strategy
- Wanting a diverse workforce

Challenges for employers

- Where is this magical budget coming from?!
- Federal government is taking away funding
- No culture of support for paid internships
- Senior leadership is unsupportive
- Law schools are handling it



How do employers who pay their interns get it done?

- Hourly rate or stipend
- On-boarding
- Shifting the culture
- Benefits to the employer
- Challenges
- Additional funding for students



What can public service advisors do?

- Talk to employers about the importance of paying interns
- Support student initiatives like Pay Our Interns
- Promote paid internships to students as top opportunities



What can public service employers do?

- Talk to other employers about the importance of paying interns
- Advocate to your unions, senior leaders, and staff
- Listen to student experiences
- Create a cultural shift at your office



Let's work collaboratively!

- Shared spreadsheet to share information on paid public service internships
- Only 30 employers listed so far – tell me others!



Audience Questions

- What are the biggest challenges you're facing with summer funding?
- What are you hearing from students?
- What are you hearing from public service employers?
- Where can employers find funding to pay students?
- How can we shift the culture?



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Thank You