JUSTICE 360 ADVANCING EQUALITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Diana Holt Legal Internship Description

Objective

The *Diana Holt Legal Internship* provides an opportunity for rising second or third year law students to gain experience in defending individuals facing the death penalty and juveniles facing extreme prison sentences.

Background

Diana Holt earned her law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. During law school, she interned with Justice 360 (then known as the South Carolina Death Penalty Resource Center). As an intern, Diana began working on the case of Edward (Eddie) Lee Elmore, who was incarcerated on South Carolina's death row for a 1982 rape and murder in Greenwood County. Following law school, Diana moved to South Carolina and continued working for Justice 360 and on Eddie's case. Through her work, she and the legal team discovered evidence indicating another person committed the crimes and determined the State fabricated or over-interpreted other physical evidence. Ultimately, Diana and other attorneys associated with Justice 360 obtained Eddie's removal from death row following a finding that he was intellectually disabled and then his release from prison following reversal of his conviction based on newly discovered evidence of Eddie's innocence. Diana supported and remained friends with Eddie following his release in 2012 until his death in 2018.

Eddie's case is only a single example of the impact of Diana's legal career. For more than 30 years, she tirelessly advocated for the men on South Carolina's death row and juveniles serving life without parole. Diana passed away in December 2023 from complications related to cancer. Her legacy continues to reverberate through Justice 360 and the South Carolina legal community. One of her final clients, Ron Finklea, recently obtained a new sentencing trial based largely on the social history investigation Diana conduced. The purpose of the *Diana Holt Legal Internship* is to honor and preserve her memory and to provide aspiring attorneys with experiences similar to those she received at Justice 360 to launch their career.

Primary Roles and Responsibilities

- Assist Justice 360 attorneys in representing individuals facing a death sentence or juveniles facing extreme sentences (up to life without parole) in South Carolina. Specific tasks likely include:
    - Reviewing and collecting case files, records, and evidence
    - Legal research and writing
    - Meeting with case teams and clients
    - Field investigation
- Research and prepare written resource materials for attorneys handling death penalty and juvenile life without parole or waiver cases.
- Assist with ongoing empirical studies related to the death penalty, juvenile sentencing, and various South Carolina communities.

Minimum Qualifications

- One or two years of law school.
- Demonstrated interest in death penalty and/or juvenile life without parole legal representation and research.

JUSTICE 360 ADVANCING EQUALITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Diana Holt Legal Internship Description

- If working in person, must hold a valid driver's license and be willing to travel throughout South Carolina.

Skills

- Strong legal research, analytical, and writing skills.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Strong organizational abilities, including planning and time management skills.

Type of Employee: Ten-week, full-time internship between May and August 2027
Location: Columbia, SC strongly preferred[1]
Work Hours: Full-time
Compensation: Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek public interest stipends for summer work. If they are unable to do so, or if the school stipend appears inadequate, supplemental funding is available.

Justice 360 has a strong commitment to diversity and encourages people historically underrepresented in the practice of law to apply.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to Allison Franz, Executive Director of Justice 360 (allison@justice360sc.org) and Rosalind Major, Senior Staff Attorney (rosalind@justice360sc.org).

[1] Justice 360 has a strong preference for in person internships, which we find provide greater opportunities for team and client interactions, investigation experience, and court observation. However, we will consider remote internships on a case-by-case basis.