



Social Work Internship

ArchCity Defenders (ACD) is a holistic legal advocacy organization that combats the criminalization of poverty and state violence, especially in communities of color. ACD's foundation of civil and criminal legal representation, social services, impact litigation, policy and media advocacy, and community collaboration achieves and inspires justice and equitable outcomes for people throughout the St. Louis region and beyond.

ArchCity Defenders envisions a society liberated from systems of oppression where the promise of justice and racial equity is realized; communities where our approach to public safety prioritizes investment in well-being, health, and transformation without relying on criminalization and incarceration; and people living freely in their communities, thriving regardless of their race or income.

ArchCity Defenders is working on broad-based change to the St. Louis region's criminal legal system. One way we advance this agenda is through the use of impact litigation. In order to effectively file and argue civil rights impact cases, it is necessary to have extensive knowledge of legal precedents, state and federal statutes, and county and municipal ordinances.

Although impact litigation has become one effective tool for change, ArchCity Defenders remains dedicated to representing our clients and changing the lives of our clients on an individual basis. To this end, we provide direct representation in housing, consumer, family, criminal, municipal, and other areas of the law.

The intern will function as a part of an interdisciplinary team and coordinate with social workers, attorneys, paralegals, and other staff to support ACD's mission and to expand our reach. A successful intern needs to be assertive, independent, persistent, empathetic, proactive, and flexible. They will need to take initiative, use problem-solving skills, see projects through to completion, and become a strong advocate for themselves and others.

We have two practicum/internship opportunities with our Social Work team. When you apply, please select the practicum you prefer. Note that the program does require a two-semester commitment and requires that all interns engage in some case management work.

Case Management Intern

Responsibilities:

- Provide holistic, trauma-informed case management for clients, including: housing support, access to identification, public benefits support, transportation assistance, etc.
- Work closely with the social work team and legal staff to assist with various client needs
- Strategize with field instructor, attorneys, social workers, and clients regarding goals and case plan
- Maintain proper records and documentation for agency internal and external requirements
- Offer crisis intervention, psychoeducation, affirming and empathetic listening, and support to clients/clients' families
- Conduct intakes and bio-psycho-social assessments
- Empower clients by working with them to identify barriers and solutions
- Create and maintain an up-to-date client support resource list
- Be self-aware and know when to seek help from supervisor/co-workers
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships with community resources to foster effective coordination of services for clients
- Attend any trainings as assigned and participate in the implementation of direct services program
- Participate in mezzo- and macro- level social work projects as needed
- Support the mission of ACD and work with staff to support that mission through social work services
- Any other duties as assigned to help the Social Work team do its best work

Pilot Project Intern

Responsibilities:

- Provide holistic, trauma-informed service coordination for pilot clients
- Maintain communication and coordination with pilot program consultants and design partners
- Identify and form partnerships with service providers aligned with ACD's mission and values
- Collect and interpret program data to evaluate program impact and outcomes on an ongoing basis.
- Work closely with the ACD social work team, attorneys, and paralegals supporting pilot clients
- Conduct quarterly biopsychosocial assessments with pilot clients
- Create and facilitate pilot program presentations for service partners, referral partners, prospective clients, community members, and ACD staff
- Maintain up-to-date client notes and information
- Participate in outreach, community events, and financial assistance support as needed

- Prioritize client-centered service and self-determination by supporting pilot clients' own identification of priorities and services needed

Qualifications for Both Internship Placements

- Excellent interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills
- Comfort and experience with researching resources and programs for clients
- Detail-oriented approach to working in a team-driven organization
- High capacity for problem solving and self-direction and the ability to work independently within time constraints
- Flexible and able to respond appropriately to ACD's changing needs
- Must be able to maintain appropriate client boundaries
- Commitment to racial and economic justice and systems change
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity toward diverse populations; awareness of structures of power, privilege, and oppression
- Knowledge of homelessness and/or the criminal legal system; best practices, particularly around economic gaps and needs; or passion to learn about these issues, systems, and resources
- Proficiency in Spanish or other languages is appreciated, but not required

Please visit our application links on our [Internships page](#) to obtain more information about internship requirements, application instructions, and application deadlines.

ArchCity Defenders is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from people who identify with historically underserved or underrepresented communities, people of color, persons with disabilities, women, LGBTQIA+, and gender non-conforming applicants. ACD encourages applications from all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, citizenship, disability, military or veteran status, and record of arrest or conviction.