



### Social Services 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.

Oftentimes, our clients' contact with the legal system is due to laws, fines, and fees that are directly tied to the criminalization of being poor and/or Black and that contact has many collateral consequences for our clients and their families. The social services team's work demonstrates how communities can reimagine public safety through a racial and social justice lens while creating pathways for individual self-determination and community empowerment.

ACD provides students with practicum experience at the intersection of law and social work and an opportunity to help build our social services program. Interns provide holistic, trauma-informed case management for clients, including housing support, access to identification, public benefits support, and transportation assistance, among other needs. The Social Services program also facilitates a Food Delivery program and ACD's yearly Holiday Gift Drive.

The social services 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.

#### Responsibilities:

- Conduct intakes and bio-psycho-social assessments and provide holistic, trauma-informed case management for clients
- Work closely with the social services 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
- 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
- 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 services team do its best work

#### Qualifications:

- 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

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 of color, persons with disabilities, women, LGBTQIA+, and gender non-conforming applicants.