

Legal Internship and Externship Opportunities through Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Since 2008, **Project HEAL** (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law) at Kennedy Krieger Institute has partnered with local law schools to provide meaningful internship and externship opportunities for their highest achieving students. A legal internship with Project HEAL is a unique opportunity to be part of an innovative public interest legal project through real world experiences helping underserved populations.

Project HEAL provides access to advocacy and legal services for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who receive services at Kennedy Krieger and their families. An attorney from Project HEAL acts as a member of the treatment team, working with the family and Kennedy Krieger healthcare professionals and educators to ensure that patients receive the medical, legal, and educational assistance they need. Project HEAL provides legal representation for patients and families throughout Maryland in special education, Supplemental Security Income appeals, and simple family law matters. The project also offers limited representation, case consultations, and advocacy training programs for Kennedy Krieger healthcare professionals, educators, and families.



Responsibilities: Conduct legal research and draft memoranda on special education law; conduct client intakes and interviews; copy educational and medical records and organize client files; draft complaints for the Maryland State Department of Education for alleged violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2004); draft presentations and trainings for Kennedy Krieger healthcare professionals and educators, patients and families, and community groups; attend advocacy group meetings on a monthly basis; and attend bi-monthly Maryland Special Education Lawyers meetings.

The intern will be supervised by Maureen van Stone, Esquire, MS, Director of Project HEAL. The location is 716 North Broadway, Office 106, Baltimore, MD 21205. Location is accessible by Metro and the Hopkins Shuttle.

The intern will need to complete the Institute volunteer application and learning packets, receive a free PPD test and flu shot, and sign a confidentiality agreement. Free parking will be available. Stipends for a legal internship may be obtained through local law schools.

For more information about the internship program at Project HEAL, visit KennedyKrieger.org/ProjectHEAL/Trainees or contact Ms. van Stone at **443-923-4416** or vanStone@KennedyKrieger.org.

Kennedy Krieger Institute is an internationally recognized institution dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disorders of the brain, spinal cord, and musculoskeletal system through patient care, research and professional training, special education, and community programs. Located on eight campuses throughout the Baltimore/Washington region, the Institute serves more than 20,000 patients each year through inpatient and day treatment programs, outpatient clinics, home and community services, and school-based programs.

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities is one of a national network of University Centers for Excellence federally funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

A project of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute. Project HEAL's law firm partners include:

Ballard Spahr
LLP



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OBER | KALER
Attorneys at Law



Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Building Partnerships. Changing Lives.

What past interns are saying about Project HEAL

Sara Cimino

School: University of Baltimore School of Law

Years: Summer and Fall 2011

Program: Summer – UBSPI grant recipient, Fall – API

Employer: Offit Kurman Attorneys at Law



“Project HEAL was my first legal internship, and I was really enthusiastic about gaining legal experience. In fact, I enjoyed my first experience so much that I decided to come back to Project HEAL for an additional semester because I felt really good about the work I was doing. Ultimately, Project HEAL gave me the opportunity to gain meaningful experience that was also

rewarding. I was able to observe and participate in the entire process of taking on a special education case, from the initial intake to the closing letter. I liked being an advocate and knowing that my work was helping families and children in need.”

Fred Curtis

School: University of Maryland School of Law

Year: Fall 2014

Program: Volunteer



“I learned so much during my time at Project HEAL. I pride myself on living without regrets, but if there is one thing I would have done differently during my law school career, I would have done a formal externship at Project HEAL. I am so inspired by Project HEAL that I am working to replicate Project HEAL in Atlanta. I have a lot of hard work ahead of me,

but because of the mentorship provided by Project HEAL staff, I feel like my dreams are obtainable.”

Hunter McIntyre

School: University of Baltimore School of Law

Year: 2012

Program: UBSPI (400 hours)

Employer: S.A.F.E. Management, Inc.



“Like most law students with an aspiration of working in public interest, one of my desires to work for Project HEAL came from the longing to have an impact on the community and help those who are less fortunate than I am. I was also attracted to Project HEAL because the director, Maureen van Stone, has such a positive impact not only on the special education

community, but also on the students attending local law schools. Through countless interns, she has instilled attributes that will last for a lifetime and will have no small impact on the lives of future attorneys. Based on the example she set, I know I will not only be a better attorney, but also a better contributing member of my community.”

Peter Naugle

School: University of Maryland School of Law

Years: Summer 2008/Summer 2012

Program: Undergraduate Student Volunteer and MPILP Summer Grantee

Employer: Court of Special Appeals of Maryland



“During my time with Project HEAL, I was able to participate at every stage of the process for children needing legal services in pursuit of their right to a free appropriate public education. I enjoyed a great deal of direct client interaction by conducting client intake and interviews. I wrote a number of letters to school administrators articulating the clients’ concerns and

requesting an IEP meeting to resolve them. I also drafted Maryland State Department of Education complaints for the more egregious instances of denial of services to children. My time at Project HEAL is among the few cherished instances in my legal career when I have felt truly fulfilled by the difference I was able to make in the lives of those I sought to help.”

Lauren Peterson

School: University of Maryland School of Law

Years: Spring 2013/Summer 2013/Fall 2013

Program: Legislative Intern, Volunteer, Health Law Extern

Employer: The Law Offices of Gerry McMahon, LLC



“I can confidently say that I would not be where I am today without Project HEAL. In my second and third years of law school, I was fortunate enough to work for Project HEAL in a variety of capacities. As a legislative intern, I advocated on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, researched issues, prepared testimony, and attended

Maryland legislative committee hearings. As a health law extern, I conducted client intakes, drafted letters and complaints to the Maryland State Department of Education, and attended individualized education program and Section 504 meetings, and due process hearings. Thanks to the support and guidance of Project HEAL attorneys and staff, I discovered and cultivated a passion for special education law as a career. I currently work for a special education law firm, supporting families of children with disabilities in New York and Connecticut.”

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