PARTICIPATING LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS

Legal organizations may indicate their desire to participate in the Summer Clerkship Program by notifying the ACBA’s Director of Diversity and Gender Equality in January that their organization is willing to employ one or more first-year minority law students for the summer. Legal organizations that are not able to employ a summer clerk but are interested in supporting the program may also participate by making a financial contribution to the program.

PAST PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office
Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender
American Eagle Outfitters
Babst Calland Clements and Zomnir, P.C.
BNY Mellon
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Burns White LLC
Cipriani & Werner, P.C.
Clark Hill Thorp Reed, LLP
Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.
Court of Common Pleas, Family Division
Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
Education Law Center
Federal Home Loan Bank
Federal Public Defender’s Office
FedEx Ground
Goehring, Rutter & Boehm
Highmark Inc.
Horty, Springer & Mattern, PC
Juvenile Court Project
K&L Gates LLP
Margolis Edelstein
Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Ecks, PLLC
Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
Pepper Hamilton LLP
Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspani, LLP
PPG Industries, Inc.
Reed Smith LLP
Robb Leonard Mulvihill LLP
SafeCol Insurance
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP
Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.
Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky
The Webb Law Firm, P.C.
Tucker Arensberg, P.C.
United States Steel Corporation
UPMC Legal Department
United States Attorney’s Office
Vuono & Gray, LLC
Zimmer Kunz, PLLC

Recipient of the American Bar Association’s 2008 Partnership Award for exceptional bar association projects that seek to increase the participation and advancement of lawyers of color in the organized bar and to attract students of color to the legal profession.
ABOUT THE SUMMER CLERKSHIP PROGRAM

The Allegheny County Bar Association’s Summer Clerkship Program was established in 2005 as a key strategy of the ACBA’s Diversity Initiative to significantly increase the number of diverse lawyers who practice in Allegheny County. The primary goal of the Summer Clerkship Program is to provide a challenging and enriching summer employment experience to first-year minority law students at law firms, corporate legal departments, government agencies and non-profits.

LAW STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The Summer Clerkship Program is open to any first-year minority law student from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Duquesne University School of Law, the West Virginia College of Law, Penn State Law and The Dickinson School of Law. First-year minority law students at other law schools with legitimate connections to Pittsburgh may also apply. Any first-year law student who self-identifies as one or more of the following EEOC racial/ethnic classifications is considered a “minority” for purposes of the program and is eligible to apply: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino; or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

A first-year minority law student may apply for an available position for the summer following the completion of his or her first year of law school by electronically submitting to the ACBA’s Director of Diversity and Gender Equality through his or her career services office: (1) a completed Summer Clerkship Program Application; (2) a current resume; (3) a copy of a legal research and writing paper; and (4) a copy of his or her first semester law school transcript. Application materials typically must be submitted by mid-January, except that transcripts may be submitted at any time before an applicant’s interview or as soon after the interview as it becomes available.

Applicants will be interviewed by volunteer attorneys from participating legal organizations or members of the ACBA in late January. Interviews will be conducted at participating law schools, if possible. To the extent that there are a sufficient number of volunteer interviewers, two interviews will interview each applicant. Each applicant will be evaluated on the basis of his or her 1) interview, 2) writing sample, and 3) background and will be given a numerical score by the interviewer(s) upon completion of the interview. Each applicant will then be ranked on the basis of the overall score(s) received by him or her. The highest scoring applicants will be selected as finalists in the program. The number of finalists will be determined by the number of positions that are available with participating employers.

LENGTH OF CLERKSHIP, SALARY, AND FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

The employing legal organization will determine the length of the summer clerkship, which typically will begin after Memorial Day. Clerkships are generally configured in either of two ways: (1) two consecutive six-week clerkships with different legal organizations; or (2) one consecutive eight to twelve-week clerkship with a single legal organization. The salary for a summer clerk will be established by the individual legal organization employing the clerk, subject to the minimum salary level recommended by the ACBA of $800 per week, subject to tax and withholding. The salary paid should be the same as that paid to other law students working for the legal organization in similar positions. Certain non-profit and government employers have participated in the program in the past on an unpaid basis.

ACBA SUPPORT AND PROGRAMS

The ACBA’s Director of Diversity and Gender Equality will provide guidance and suggestions to participating employers to assist in making each summer clerk’s experience meaningful. In addition, the ACBA will sponsor programs and events throughout the summer to which all summer clerks will be invited which are designed to enrich the clerks’ summer experience and supplement their professional development, while at the same time introducing them to the ACBA and its members. Participating employers are asked to support and encourage the attendance by their clerks at these programs and events.

For more information about the Summer Clerkship Program, visit the ACBA website at www.acba.org or contact Alysia M. Keating, Esq., Director of Diversity and Gender Equality at 412-402-6658 or akeating@acba.org.