

Make the Road New York - Legal Internship Summer 2022



Make the Road New York (MRNY) is a grassroots organization that builds the power of immigrant and working-class communities to achieve dignity and justice through organizing, policy innovation, transformative education, and survival services, which includes legal services. With a membership of more than 24,000 low-income New Yorkers, MRNY tackles the critical issues facing our community: workplace justice, housing and environmental justice, immigrants' rights, TGNCIQ (transgender, gender non-conforming, intersex and queer) justice, public education, health justice, and policing and criminal justice. MRNY operates neighborhood-based community centers in

Bushwick, Brooklyn; Jackson Heights, Queens; Port Richmond, Staten Island; Brentwood, Long Island; and White Plains, Westchester. During the COVID-19 pandemic, MRNY offices have remained physically closed for most uses with programs operating remotely. We anticipate our work in the summer of 2022 will operate in a hybrid of both remote and in-person work, and interns should be available to appear in our offices if required.

The Legal Services Department at MRNY provides a range of civil legal services in the areas of workplace justice, immigration law, housing and public benefits, and TGNCIQ rights. Intern placements are available in the areas of workplace justice, housing law, immigration law, and with our TGNCIQ project:

- ❖ **Workplace Justice:** Students working with the workplace justice team will assist low-wage workers with claims for unpaid wages, employment discrimination, paid sick leave and other employment-related issues. Students may also work on legal support for workplace justice organizing campaigns.
- ❖ **Housing:** Students working with the housing team will assist in the representation of tenants and tenant associations in cases involving eviction, harassment, repairs, and overcharge. Students may also work on cases involving access to government benefits, including city, state and federal benefits.
- ❖ **Immigration:** Students placed with the immigration team may work on a wide range of casework as well as legal research and writing, for both affirmative applications for relief and removal defense. This includes working with youth and adults, with survivors of violence, and with clients at risk of enforcement such as those with criminal records and prior orders of deportation. Students will also have the opportunity to provide legal support to our organizing team and to our rapid response coordinator responding to ICE raids.
- ❖ **TGNCIQ Justice, Immigration and Self-Determination:** This is for a law student interested in gaining immigration experience representing LGBTQ immigrants in removal defense, as well as in affirmative applications for relief. There will also be an opportunity to work with the Trans Immigrant Project (TrIP) in developing workshops and presenting to members.

BROOKLYN 301 GROVE STREET BROOKLYN, NY 11237 718 418 7690	QUEENS 92-10 ROOSEVELT AVENUE JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372 718 565 8500	STATEN ISLAND 161 PORT RICHMOND AVENUE STATEN ISLAND, NY 10302 718 727 1222	LONG ISLAND 1090 SUFFOLK AVENUE BRENTWOOD, NY 11717 631 231 2220	WESTCHESTER 46 WALLER AVENUE WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605 914 948 8466
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On all teams, under attorney supervision, students' work will include intake interviews, legal research, preparing legal documents (including affidavits, pleadings, motions, briefs and other court filings), communicating with administrative agencies, courts, jails and other attorneys, and assisting with the representation of clients in court and before administrative agencies. Students will also have opportunities to engage in research and policy support for organizing campaigns, and will be expected to work collaboratively with organizers, client-members, and other key staff in the organization.

Students should have **Spanish language skills** sufficient to conduct an intake interview independently without an interpreter. Fluency in Spanish is strongly preferred. Students for summer placements will be required to commit to work for 10 weeks, 40 hours / week. Students may be eligible to apply for a stipend if certain criteria are met.

MRNY is an equal opportunity employer. Hiring, promotion, compensation, benefits, discipline, termination and all other employment decisions are made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age disability, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, veteran status or any other protected status. Women, people of color, and LGBTQIA+-identified people are encouraged to apply.

Application details: To apply please send a letter of interest and resume as soon as possible to legalinternships@maketheroadny.org. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and until positions are filled.