

## Legal Extern – Spring, Summer & Fall 2018



Our Children's Trust (OCT) is a nonprofit organization seeking law students who are interested in using the law to fight climate change and playing an integral part in what is being called the "trial of the century." Externships (or internships) can be full time or part time, and the work can be done remotely or in our office in Eugene, Oregon. Preference will be given to students who can commit to working at least 15 hours per week during the Fall and Spring, and full time during the Summer.

Our Children's Trust works to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate for current and future generations through its coordination of a global legal campaign. As a part of this strategic campaign, OCT has supported young people since 2011 in filing legal actions in every U.S. state, against the federal government, and in different countries around the world. Through litigation, administrative petitions for rulemaking, and climate recovery ordinances, OCT supports youth in advocating for science-based carbon emission reductions necessary to restore climate equilibrium on the planet.

The legal extern will directly support OCT's legal efforts in local, state, federal, and/or international actions, including the constitutional and public trust climate case filed by 21 young people in *Juliana v. U.S.* (D. Or. 2015). The extern will be able to work on a variety of projects, which could include assisting attorneys around the country and the world in their legal efforts; working with experts; conducting legal and evidentiary research; drafting legal memoranda; drafting, reviewing, and editing complaints, briefs, motions, discovery requests, and declarations; and assisting with document review. Externs will play an important role in helping our legal team prepare for trial in *Juliana v. U.S.*

OCT relies heavily on legal externs for these tasks, placing a premium on careful, accurate, and self-directed work. Each extern is responsible for monitoring their own workload. OCT Attorneys supervise the externs, providing them with varied work experiences and holding regular legal meetings to review and discuss their work.

This is an unprecedented opportunity for a law student to be part of a cutting-edge legal strategy and work with some of the top attorneys and scientists from around the world to address the climate crisis. Here's how three law students described their experience working with OCT during the summer of 2017:

"Working at Our Children's Trust is challenging, engaging, and most importantly, deeply meaningful. The work was incredibly varied, and each week brought unparalleled opportunities to learn about the legal process and develop practical skills. I don't think there is another legal internship where in just ten weeks I could have researched complex civil procedure questions, conducted document review, learned about the legal system of Sri Lanka, drafted a section of a brief to the Ninth Circuit, supported discovery efforts in preparation for trial, and more. The attorneys at Our Children's Trust truly valued the law clerks and ensured that each assignment was meaningful to the case and our professional development alike."

~IL, Georgetown University Law Center

"Joining Our Children's Trust for the summer was the right decision. It is the only organization in the country with a litigation strategy that is proportional to the scale of the climate crisis. And, because OCT attorneys give summer law clerks real responsibility, I feel like I have helped shape the course of their landmark federal case while experiencing an exceptional diversity of assignments."

~IL, Yale Law School

"My clerkship at Our Children's Trust was a truly rewarding experience. Over the course of the summer, I had the opportunity to work on substantive projects for both state and federal litigation. I am grateful for the interesting and challenging work that I was assigned, and my research and writing skills grew tremendously throughout the summer. The legal team at Our Children's Trust is inclusive and dedicated to their clerks. I was always encouraged to take on projects that sparked my interest, and I felt supported in completing those projects. I couldn't have asked for a better summer experience!"

~IL, University of Oregon School of Law

**Compensation:** These externship positions are unpaid; however, Our Children’s Trust is willing to support law students in securing outside funding or academic credit for their work. OCT is an equal opportunity employer and committed to fostering diversity and inclusiveness among our staff and externs. People of color, women, LGBTQ, and people of different faiths and national origin are encouraged to apply, and **successful externship candidates may be eligible for OCT diversity fellowships.**

**To Apply:** Email the following application materials to [ebrown@ourchildrenstrust.org](mailto:ebrown@ourchildrenstrust.org):

- Cover letter
  - Include description of why you are interested in working for OCT and on climate change.
  - Include amount of time you are able to commit to the externship and whether you will be seeking academic credit.
- Resume
- List of three references (at least one legal) with email addresses and phone numbers
- Law school transcript (unofficial version OK)
- Short writing sample (no more than 7 pages)

Please merge all of the above in the order listed **into one PDF** and save with the file name: “[First and last name]-[law school name].” Please put “Legal Externship” and the time period you are applying for (e.g., “Spring 2018”) in the subject line of your email. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

You can find out more about OCT at our website: [www.ourchildrenstrust.org](http://www.ourchildrenstrust.org)