



Legal Internship Summer 2023

Rights Behind Bars is accepting applications from current law students who are passionate about protecting the rights of people in prison and immigration detention and are interested in spending the summer working on trial and appellate litigation. Rights Behind Bars is a non-profit organization that legally advocates for people in prisons, jails, and immigration detention centers to live in humane conditions. We use a track-and-intervene model by identifying promising appeals and representing *pro se* plaintiffs in federal and state courts of appeals. We also bring affirmative litigation at the trial level in collaboration with community groups challenging particularly abusive sites and practices of incarceration. Rights Behind Bars also serves as a hub for developments in prison law, linking people in prison and detention centers, their family and community advocates, legal experts, academics, and private attorneys.

Legal interns at RBB will participate in all aspects of our litigation and advocacy. This could include tracking the flood of prison and immigration detention conditions litigation through court decisions, drafting complaints or briefs, conducting legal research, preparing legal memoranda, drafting letters and Freedom of Information Act requests, and interviewing clients.

As a new and small organization, Rights Behind Bars offers an exciting opportunity with room for serious responsibility for someone who is dedicated to the rights of people in prisons, jails, and immigration detention centers. We are seeking applicants who have a deep commitment to this work, are self-starters who are comfortable with a lack of structure and eager to take initiative, and have strong research, writing, and communication skills. We currently plan to be in-person two days a week in Washington, D.C. but working remotely from elsewhere may be possible in unusual circumstances.

We strongly encourage students to apply who are people of color, identify as LGBTQ, have disabilities, are from low-income backgrounds, are first-generation students, and/or do not attend elite law schools. We ask all applicants to try to obtain funding themselves, either through law school programs or other third parties. If applicable, RBB will provide a stipend for interns to ensure all interns are compensated at a total amount of \$7000 for the 10-week internship. Arrangements can be made with educational institutions for work/study or course credit. RBB will work with international students to satisfy law school externship requirements or discuss other accommodations necessary to obtain employment authorization.

Students interested in this opportunity should submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and two references to applications@rightsbehindbars.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.