

**EQUAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE  
SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FOR SUMMER PUBLIC  
INTEREST EMPLOYMENT**

Application for Summer 2009

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**Applications are due Friday April 17, 2009 by 5:00 p.m.**

**PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AS MS WORD**

**ATTACHMENTS TO: [kirsten.haalboom@valpo.edu](mailto:kirsten.haalboom@valpo.edu)**

**You may also submit your completed application by placing your application in the EJA box located in the SBA office. Please place your application in an envelope of some sort to protect your information.**

**(NOTE: Late applications will not be accepted unless you have prior approval)**

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**What is the EJA Supplemental Grant?**

EJA recognizes that many law students are called to serve the public interest, but are unable, financially, to heed this calling because of the low (or no) pay provided by non-profit organizations. This public interest grant is designed to enable first and second year students to accept public interest law positions during the summer months.

*Unlike* the VUSL Summer Public Interest Scholarship, which is deducted from or counted against the recipient's student loan for tuition for the following year, *EJA's grant provides direct cash assistance* to the student during the summer to help defray living expenses, transportation costs, and other necessities.

The number of grants offered and the amount of each grant will be determined by the EJA Supplemental Grant Selection Committee, based upon the number of applications received, the need demonstrated by each applicant, and the availability of funds. Past grants have ranged from \$100 to \$1,050 per recipient. The Selection Committee will notify applicants of the Committee's decision by April 25th. (See "Duties" below for an explanation of the disbursement policy.)

**Who may apply?**

EJA's Supplemental Grant is available to ALL first and second year law students. Membership in EJA is NOT required. Receipt of the VUSL Summer Public Service Scholarship does NOT affect eligibility for the EJA Supplemental Grant. Students receiving externship credit or pro bono credit for their public interest work *are not eligible* for the EJA Supplemental Grant.

**What do we mean by "Public Interest Employment"?**

What is considered as "pro bono" work with career services counts as public interest, *except* for judicial clerkships. This includes all non-profit organizations, and most government agencies. Public interest law offices rely on volunteer services provided by students to alleviate their overwhelming caseloads. Because these organizations are public interest, they are most often non-profit organizations that do not have the funds

to pay for this extra labor source. In return for their work, students receive invaluable, hands-on experience in interviewing clients, representing clients in different areas of law, and developing extensive research and writing skills.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **Part I: FINANCIAL BACKGROUND**

Financial need of the applicant, based upon:

- A. Amount of compensation expected for summer public interest position
- B. Amount of education debt thus far
- C. Summer expenses related to the employment (travel, additional rent, etc.)

### **PART II: VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND**

Volunteer Participation of applicant, based upon:

- A. Undergrad Volunteer Participation
- B. Law School Volunteer Participation

### **PART III: LAW SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- A. Law School Clubs (EJA membership if applicable)
- B. Intramural Sports

### **PART IV: WORK EXPERIENCE**

- A. Prior Work Experience
- B. Internship/Externship
- C. Summer Work Experience

### **PART V: ESSAY SECTION**

- A. Essays will help to make decisions between similarly situated applicants.

### **Part VI: SUMMER PLACEMENT (this receives significant attention)**

- A. Summer Placement
  - 1. Name of organization you will work for
  - 2. What you expect to do this for the organization
  - 3. How the organization furthers public interest

*Applications submitted beyond the deadline will NOT be considered without a waiver from the President for cause. In no case will an application be considered after the Selection Committee meets. No applicant will serve on the selection committee.*

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Selection Committee understands that private personal financial information is being disclosed for the purposes of this application. Every effort is made to ensure confidentiality. Any specific concerns regarding disclosing this information may be discussed with the President of EJA, Kirsten Haalboom, to make arrangements.

## **Grant Recipient's Duties After Award of Scholarship**

1. Print out, sign and submit the attached Letter of Acceptance and Intent by **April 30, 2009** into the EJA box located in the SBA office.
2. Submit a letter from your immediate supervisor detailing your duties, hours that you will be working, and how the organization serves the public interest. **This letter must be received by April 30, 2009. Please put into EJA box located in the SBA office.**

### **Contact Information**

Additional questions may be addressed to the EJA Scholarship Board. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members.

Kirsten Haalboom, President  
kirsten.haalboom@valpo.edu

Shanna Kaminski-Klimczak, Vice President  
shanna.kaminski-klimczak@valpo.edu

Janee Mitchell, Treasurer  
janee.mitchell@valpo.edu

Eric Ditton, Secretary and Pro Bono Contact  
eric.ditton@valpo.edu

**EQUAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE  
SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FOR SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST  
EMPLOYMENT**

**APPLICATION FOR SUMMER 2009**

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Please fill out all portions of this application and label your responses.  
**Completed applications should be emailed as Word attachments to  
kirsten.haalboom@valpo.edu or placed in the box in the SBA office by  
5:00 p.m. on Friday April 17, 2009.**

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For EJA Use Only – Do NOT fill out.

Application Code:	Amount Rewarded:
Acceptance Received:	Employment Letter Received:
Comments/Notations:	

**PART A: Summer Employment Information**

1. Name.
2. Year in school.
3. *Current* local address and phone number.
4. *Summer* address and phone number, and dates you will be living at this address.
5. Prospective employer (with address and phone number).
6. Contact Person or Direct Supervisor for summer employer.
7. Type of Organization.
8. Is this a “firm” offer from the public interest organization?
9. Briefly describe the organization.
10. Briefly describe your duties and responsibilities.
11. Indicate the type of compensation, if any, that you will receive, and whether this is an hourly wage, stipend for travel or living expenses, etc.
12. Indicate the hours you plan to work per week.

13. Indicate if you will have any other jobs this summer (and amount of compensation).

## **PART B: Need**

14. Accurate amount of education debt to date. (Please be specific regarding the dollar amounts).
15. Any other financial obligations you will incur this summer that might affect the committee's decision (for example, additional housing, driving, etc.).
16. Any other information regarding your financial need for an EJA grant.

## **PART C: Volunteer and Extra-Curricular Involvement**

You may omit responses to questions not applicable to you.

17. Volunteer Participation as an Undergrad Student (suggested areas to be covered are listed below):

1. Type of volunteer participation.
2. How much volunteer work did you do?

18. Amount of Volunteer Participation as a Law Student (suggested areas to be covered are listed below):

1. Type of volunteer participation.
2. What affect has your volunteer work had on you?
3. What have you learned from your volunteer participation?
4. How much volunteer work have you done?

19. Law School Activities/Clubs (Please list: the organization's name, level of participation, office(s) held, and any activities within the club you have organized i.e. speakers, panels, service activities etc)

1. Social Clubs – including EJA
2. Fraternal Organizations
3. Academic Clubs
4. Law Review
5. Moot Court
6. Other

20. Prior Work Experience

1. What organization did you work with?
2. What did you do?
3. What did you learn?
4. How has this sparked an interest in public interest work?

21. Internship/Externship

1. What organization did you work with?
2. What did you do?

3. What did you learn?
4. How has this sparked an interest in public interest work?

22. Previous Summer Work Experience

1. What organization did you work with?
2. What did you do?
3. What did you learn?
4. How has this sparked an interest in public interest work?

**PART D: Essay Portion**

Select any two topics from the five listed below and write **two to three** paragraphs on each topic.

- (1) What affect has volunteering had on you?
- (2) What has influenced you to pursue public interest?
- (3) How will your summer experience benefit VUSL and EJA specifically?
- (4) How the grant will further your career goals?
- (5) How will your summer experience benefit society in general?

**STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE AND INTENT**

PLEASE PRINT, SIGN AND PLACE THIS FORM INTO  
THE EJA BOX LOCATED IN THE SBA OFFICE

I ACCEPT the summer public interest grant in the amount EJA has offered to provide.

I AGREE TO NOTIFY the Equal Justice Alliance Executive Board, in writing, of any significant changes in any of the information submitted. The members of the board are listed at the bottom of this application.

I agree that if I fail to meet any of the requirements of the grant, I will contact the EJA board immediately and in writing, and I agree to reimburse EJA for all or part of the pro-rated portion of the grant as of the date of the failure to meet the grant's requirements.

Should other funding become available to me, for my summer position, at any time after EJA awards this grant to me, I agree to notify EJA immediately in order to enable EJA to take proper action regarding the return of all or part of the grant.

I certify that all of the information submitted is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Contact Information**

Additional questions may be addressed to the EJA Executive Board. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members.

Kirsten Haalboom, President  
kirsten.haalboom@valpo.edu

Shanna Kaminski-Klimczak, Vice President  
shanna.kaminski-klimczak@valpo.edu

Janee Mitchell, Treasurer  
janee.mitchell@valpo.edu

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