

Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy Program

The Sea Grant Law & Policy Program (SGLPP) has been a component of the Marine Advisory Services of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program for nearly 40 years. The mission of the SGLPP is to provide timely and relevant legal information and services for the many users of Louisiana's coastal lands and waters, including state and local governments, coastal business, commercial fishers, recreational fishers, non-governmental organizations and the general public. Legal advisory services are performed by in-house attorneys and a staff of legal interns. This document answers frequently asked questions about legal intern opportunities.

What is a Sea Grant Legal Intern?

Sea Grant Legal Interns are second and third year law students who serve as research assistants to the staff attorneys.

What kind of projects will I work on?

Research projects cover a wide range of topics and come from a variety of sources. All projects will involve legal issues that affect one or more of our four focus areas: healthy ecosystems and habitats, resilient communities and economies, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and education and workforce development.

Research topics are gathered from discussions with our Legal Advisory Board; questions presented by members of the Marine Extension Service; and issues faced by local governments, state governmental departments (such as the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources), non-governmental organizations, and coastal businesses and residents.

Research projects also vary in the amount of work required to complete them. Some projects can be completed in a few weeks, while others can take a semester or longer.

How do I apply?

In general, new legal interns begin after the conclusion of the spring semester. However, depending on when openings become available, we do hire throughout the year.

If you are a 1L at Louisiana State University Law Center, you will have an opportunity to apply through the On Campus Interview process held during the spring semester. If you are a 2L or 3L at LSU, or a student at another university, please contact Melissa Daigle directly at mtros2@tigers.lsu.edu anytime throughout the year.



Do I need prior experience or a certain educational background?

Prior experience is not required, though advanced writing skills and Westlaw or Lexis training is recommended.

Additionally, our legal interns have had a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees; a specific educational background is not required. We also give preference to those who have an interest in our focus areas.

Will I get paid?

Yes, our legal interns earn \$15/hour.

Can I earn course credit in lieu of being paid?

Yes, course credit is available. Please contact Melissa Daigle for more information.

How many hours a week will I work?

Our legal interns can work up to 20 hours a week.



Legal interns have the opportunity to travel during their time with Louisiana Sea Grant. Above, interns participated in a coastal restoration outreach project on Grand Isle.

Where will I work?

Our offices are located in the Sea Grant Building on Louisiana State University's Baton Rouge campus, behind the Campus Federal Credit Union. Legal interns are provided with office space in the building.

Will I have an opportunity to publish my research?

Some of the research projects completed by legal interns will be turned into articles for publication in our *Louisiana Coastal Law* newsletter.

Additionally, some students have written law review articles based on their work at the SGLPP, either from a topic of our choosing or the student's (as long as it relates to the mission of the SGLPP).

Will I have the opportunity to travel?

The issues researched by the SGLPP often have implications relative to a specific geographic area of the state. Such research may require travel to these areas. Additionally, interns are often invited to and encouraged to attend related meetings in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, or other cities across coastal Louisiana.

Will I have the opportunity for outreach work/development of presentation skills?

Some research projects result in presentations rather than formal memorandum or articles, and interns can be given the opportunity to give the presentations. Additionally, interns are encouraged to attend and present at professional conferences.

Where can I learn more about Sea Grant?

Louisiana Sea Grant - www.laseagrant.org

Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy Program - www.lsu.edu/sglegal/

National Sea Grant Office - <http://seagrant.noaa.gov>

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