

Volunteer Positions Available at the New York City Law Department for Deferred and Furloughed Associates

Administrative Law

Defends challenges to the validity and constitutionality of laws and regulations that promote and protect public health and safety. Also brings actions to obtain compliance with regulatory requirements. Volunteers would handle numerous proceedings challenging agency regulatory determinations and would make appearances in criminal court to prosecute violations of local administrative code provisions.

Seeking 3 volunteers.

Appeals

Handles virtually all appeals in federal and state court in which the City is a party. Volunteers would handle their own case load, drafting appellate briefs and arguing in court.

Seeking 4 volunteers.

Commercial & Real Estate Litigation

Defends the City in diverse contract, construction and real estate cases and initiates lawsuits to recover funds for the City in real estate matters. Volunteers would handle their own case load and would assist senior litigators in more complex matters.

Seeking 2 volunteers.

Economic Development

Serves as business counsel on projects that enhance the City's economy by structuring deals, negotiating, and drafting real estate transaction documents. The volunteer would assist in the drafting of documents.

Seeking 1 volunteer.

Environmental Law

Represents and advises the City in environmental and land use matters involving drinking water supply, wastewater treatment, solid waste management, energy sources, natural resources, and environmental review of development projects. Defends challenges to City initiatives, such as a rezoning in Brooklyn to develop a 28-acre waterfront park and space to build affordable housing. Volunteers would receive the same cases and research assignments as the division's other junior attorneys.

Seeking 2 volunteers.

Family Court – Juvenile Prosecution and Child Support Enforcement Units

The Juvenile Prosecution Unit prosecutes juveniles under the age of 16 who are accused of committing crimes including, assaults, robberies, weapons possession, drug offenses, sex offenses, and homicides. Volunteers would investigate cases and conduct suppression hearings and trials. The Child Support Unit represents out of state petitioners seeking child support from New York City residents pursuant to federal statutes and guidelines. Volunteers in the Child Support Unit would handle child support petitions and enforce existing child support orders against non-custodial parents.

Seeking 4 volunteers.

General Litigation

Defends the City in lawsuits challenging important programs and policies that involve issues such as constitutional rights, education, health care, public benefits, prison conditions, foster care, and election law. The volunteer would be responsible for his or her own case load as well as assist on more complex actions.

Seeking 1 volunteer.

Labor & Employment Law

Representing the City as an employer of over a quarter-million workers, the division handles a variety of matters including First Amendment retaliation; gender, race, age and disability discrimination; and civil service law issues. Attorneys are responsible for their cases from commencement to resolution - providing an opportunity to gain experience with discovery, arguing motions, negotiating settlements, and trying cases. Volunteers would handle their own case load and assist senior attorneys on more complex matters.

Seeking 6 volunteers.

Legal Counsel

Advises the Mayor, other elected officials and City agencies on municipal law issues, and drafts City and State legislation. Recent efforts have resulted in the adoption of several gun-related laws; tough new regulations of lobbyists; and a "Green Buildings" law to create more environmentally sensitive and energy efficient buildings. The volunteer would conduct research and assist in the drafting of legislation.

Seeking 1 volunteer.

Pensions

Defends the City's five pension funds (with over 600,000 active and retired members) in litigation challenging individual and class-wide benefit determinations, and provides pension related counseling and advice to a number of City agencies. The volunteer would handle his or her own case load.

Seeking 1 volunteer

Special Federal Litigation

Defends the City in civil rights cases brought in federal court against law enforcement officials including police and correction officers and prosecutors. Claims often challenge a judgment made by an individual police or correction officer in performing his or her duties, the policies of the Police Department as to how to best secure the public safety, or of the Department of Correction as to how to best provide for the care and custody of individuals detained by the criminal justice system. Volunteers would handle cases, including doing research and writing, conducting depositions and making court appearances.

Seeking 4 volunteers.

Tax & Bankruptcy Litigation

Protects the fiscal health of the City by defending property tax assessments and improves the quality of life of its citizens by acquiring property to create parks, build affordable housing and libraries. Division attorneys litigate various tax issues and defend the City in bankruptcy proceedings and property acquisition matters. The volunteer would handle their own cases and assist in research for more senior attorneys.

Seeking 1 volunteer.

Tort

With more than 200 attorneys, the Law Department's largest division defends the City against approximately 7,000 new personal injury and property damage suits brought each year. The division maintains offices in all five boroughs. Volunteers would conduct numerous depositions, make weekly court appearances and be actively involved in discovery efforts.

Seeking 10 volunteers.