



Legal Internship Summer 2024

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 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 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 working on long-term tasks independently 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. We strongly prefer that interns work in-person with us on those two days. Candidates who are unable to work in-person should indicate that in their cover letter.

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 will guarantee our applicants—including international students—funding of \$7,000 for the internship, although we do ask applicants to first try to obtain funding themselves, either through law school programs or other third parties.

Students interested in this opportunity should submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample of five to twelve pages, and the phone and email contact information for two references to applications@rightsbehindbars.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.