

## **Minority Judicial Internship Program**

Contact: Lois Davis, Director of Pro Bono Programs, Phone 212-267-6646, ext. 217  
[ldavis@nycla.org](mailto:ldavis@nycla.org)

The New York County Lawyers' Association's Minority Judicial Internship Program provides a unique opportunity for minority law students whose finances might not otherwise permit them to take part in a paid summer judicial internship. The program is open to law students from the five law schools in New York County, Brooklyn Law School, St. John's University School of Law and City University of New York School of Law at Queens College. Students spend eight weeks during the summer interning for a state or federal judge. The mentoring relationship that is frequently forged between judge and student is one of the many unique facets of this program.

### **History**

Established in 1989 by Honorable Harold Baer Jr. and his wife, Dr. Suzanne Baer, the Program ensures that minority law students financially unable to volunteer for an unpaid summer judicial internship have an opportunity to participate in such an experience. Participating students are encouraged to obtain federal work-study funds and the New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA) provides matching funds to cover the cost of the eight-week program.

### **The Selection Process**

Beginning in January of each year, first- and second-year law students are notified that they may apply for an internship position through the NYCLA program. Information about the program is distributed to deans and placement officers. Students submit a resume along with a statement of interest and a writing sample.

The Association's Committee on Minorities and the Law interviews the candidates. The interviewing process is designed to give the students experience in honing their interviewing techniques whether or not they are offered internship positions. The Committee then selects those students who will take part in that summer's internship program. The number of students offered internships each year is based upon available funding.

### **The Internship**

Each program participant is carefully matched to a state or federal judge in the early spring and has the opportunity to meet with the assigned judge before the program begins. During the eight-week internship, students may be asked to draft memoranda, attend oral arguments and perform legal research. All interns have the opportunity to gain "hands-on" courtroom experience. Perhaps the most important benefit of the interning experience is the relationship that develops between the intern and the judge. Not only do students learn first hand about how the system works, they also gain unique insight into the decision-making process. The Program has provided the opportunity for students to know a judge and to be able to seek a reference when the occasion arises.

**Funding**

Over the years, the Minority Judicial Internship Program has received support from the following: Aetna Life & Casualty, The Sonia Alden Foundation, The Edith C. Blum Foundation, Citibank, N.A., Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, Consolidated Edison, The Dember Foundation, Donovan Leisure Newton & Irvine, Epstein Becker & Green, The Funding Exchange – Albert & Bessie Warner Fund, Healy & Bailey, IBM, Israeli Discount Bank, ITT, Judicial Friends, Kirkland and Ellis, Lane & Mittendorf, Mound Cotton & Wollan, The New York Community Trust – William H. Berri Fund, Honorable & Mrs. Harold Baer Fund, New York Stock Exchange, NYNEX Corporation, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, Pfizer, Inc, Philip Morris, Republic National Bank, Schering-Plough, Shereff Friedman Hoffman & Goodman, Starwood Hotels, and White & Case

Additionally, The Committee on Minorities and the Law sponsors a Silent Auction to benefit the Program.

Continued funding is needed and is a priority of the Association. Contributions made to the not-for-profit New York County Lawyers' Association Foundation, Inc. are tax deductible.