2015 SPIL Stipend & Eric D. Weissman Memorial Scholarship Application

About the SPIL Stipend

Students for Public Interest Law (SPIL) was founded in 1989 and is an Associate Member of the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL). SPIL was organized to further the Columbus School of Law’s commitment to providing legal services within the public interest sector.

Since its inception, SPIL has demonstrated its commitment to diverse areas of public service by raising funds for summer stipends. The SPIL stipend provides income to students who choose to spend their summer rendering legal services in the public interest for little or no compensation.

The stipend represents compensation for actual employment. Income from a summer stipend is taxable income. The amount received is based exclusively on hours worked, with maximum earnings not to exceed $3,500. While services are delivered through a non-CUA-affiliated agency, actual employment is through CUA, of which the payroll office executes payment in the same way it would with any other part-time CUA employee.

Questions should be directed to either the Financial Aid Office, Room 340, or the SPIL Presidents Raha Mokhtari at rahamokhtari08@gmail.com and Caitlyn Yuschak at ceyuschak@gmail.com.

About the Eric D. Weissman Memorial Scholarship

The Weissman family established the Eric D. Weissman Memorial Scholarship in order to specially honor one student who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to public interest law. This scholarship is for $3,500. The recipient is selected at the same time as SPIL stipend recipients are selected. All students who complete a SPIL stipend application will also be considered for the Weissman Scholarship.

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A. Important Dates

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.  SPIL Stipend / Weissman Scholarship Application Deadline

Email the application to fin-aid@law.edu or deliver it to the Financial Aid Office

Wednesday, April 22, 2015  Anticipated SPIL Stipend / Weissman Scholarship Recipient Announcement Date

B. Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Applicant is currently enrolled at the Columbus School of Law as a 1D, 1E, 2D, 2E, or 3E.
2. Applicant commits to obtaining a summer internship within the public interest law sector.
3. Applicant’s summer internship is compatible with the mission of the University.
4. Applicant’s employing organization is one of the following:
   a. Non-profit organization providing legal services to under-represented groups or causes;
   b. For-profit organization engaged in client pro-bono services;
   c. Prosecutor office;
   d. Public defender office;
   e. Federal, state, or local government agency;
   f. Judiciary (clerkship);
   g. International public interest work; or
   h. Labor union.
5. Applicant completes all required documentation listed in Section H and emails it to fin-aid@law.edu or delivers it to the Financial Aid Office by Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

C. Stipend and Scholarship Compensation Description

1. Recipients are awarded funding for one placement only; awards may not be “split” among multiple placements.
2. The stipend is for a maximum of $3,500.
3. Recipients are paid at the rate of $10.90 per hour.
4. Recipients are paid for a maximum of 40 hours per week.
5. Recipients will receive the full $3,500 upon working eight 40-hour weeks. Recipients are encouraged to continue their internships after the full stipend amount has been earned. Recipients may receive pro bono credit for unpaid hours, assuming all other Pro Bono at CUA Law criteria are met (contact Jen Tschirch at tschirch@law.edu with questions).
6. Payment is calculated based on timesheets.
7. Timesheets must be signed by the recipient’s supervisor and submitted by the recipient to CUA according to predetermined due dates.
8. Direct deposit (preferred) or checks will be delivered to recipients every two weeks per the CUA payroll schedule for hourly employees.
9. If a timesheet(s) is received after its due date, the corresponding paycheck(s) will be delayed until the following pay period.
10. Other CUA-paid employment (e.g., research assistant for a professor) is calculated into the 40-
hour per week maximum for payment.
11. Recipients are not paid for unworked hours.
12. The receipt of a stipend or scholarship will not affect a student’s financial aid for either the concurrent summer session or the subsequent academic year.

D. Stipend and Scholarship Recipient Future Commitments

1. Recipient must complete all financial forms and documents as requested by the Financial Aid Office.
2. Recipient must submit their offer letter/email from the employing organization as confirmation that he or she will be working within the public interest sector immediately upon acceptance to the internship if not provided as part of the recipient’s SPIL Stipend application.
3. Recipient must prepare and submit a summary of his or her summer experience to Professor Ogilvy at ogilvy@law.cua.edu.
4. Recipients are encouraged to submit a photograph from their internship to Professor Ogilvy at ogilvy@law.cua.edu.
5. Recipient must maintain his or her status as a Columbus School of Law student during the concurrent summer session and subsequent academic year.

E. Supplemental Compensation

Additional compensation provided by a recipient’s employer may not increase a recipient’s total earnings above $5,000. Recipient must contact the Financial Aid Office if he or she expects to receive supplemental compensation.

F. Power to Revoke

The SPIL Executive Board, SPIL Co-Advisors, and the Financial Aid Office shall retain the authority to revoke an award, recoup funds, and resolve any disputes regarding stipend eligibility that may arise. A recipient’s SPIL Stipend or Weissman Scholarship may be revoked in the following circumstances:

1. Recipient does not maintain their status as a Columbus School of Law student during the concurrent summer session and subsequent academic year;
2. There is a material change to the employing organization described in the application, which will prompt discretionary review by a subcommittee consisting of members of the Selection Committee, SPIL Presidents, SPIL Co-Advisors, and/or the Financial Aid Office.
3. Recipient obtains a summer internship in an area other than public interest law; or
4. Recipient does not meet any of the other obligations described herein.

G. Selection Process

1. A Selection Committee consisting of past CUA SPIL Stipend recipients familiar with public interest law will evaluate all applications.
2. The Selection Committee evaluates applications anonymously.
3. The Selection Committee makes evaluations based on the following criteria:
   a. Applicant’s demonstrated commitment to public interest law;
   b. Applicant’s contributions to SPIL, as verified by the current SPIL Presidents; and
   c. Degree to which the internship work described in the application will benefit the public interest.
4. Applicant with the highest score will be awarded the Weissman Scholarship.
5. All other applicants with the highest scores will be awarded SPIL stipends until the funds are exhausted.
6. Between eighteen and twenty-five SPIL stipends are expected to be awarded.

H. Required Forms / Documents

Please submit the following via email at fin-aid@law.edu or deliver it to the Financial Aid Office:

_____ a. Recipient and Organization Information
_____ b. Acknowledgment
_____ c. Application Questions
_____ d. SPIL Hours Record
_____ e. Updated Résumé with name, address, phone, and email redacted
_____ f. Offer Letter / Email (Alternatively, if applicant has not yet confirmed an internship, submit to the Financial Aid Office immediately upon confirmation)

Questions may be directed to the Financial Aid Office or current SPIL Presidents.
Recipient and Organization Information

Recipient Information

Name: _____________________________________________

Year (circle one): 1D  1E  2D  2E  3E

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Preferred address for checks (as alternative to receiving bi-weekly direct deposits):
___________________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: _____________________________________

Email Address: _____________________________________

Other CUA-paid employment (circle one):  no  yes

If yes, with _________________________________________

Organization Information

Organization Name: ___________________________________________________________________

Organization Address: _________________________________________________________________

Supervisor Name: ____________________________________

Supervisor Position: __________________________________

Supervisor Phone Number: ____________________________

Supervisor Email Address: ____________________________
Acknowledgement

With my signature, I affirm the following:

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the information included in this packet;

I intend to maintain my status as a Columbus School of Law student;

I understand that I am responsible for ensuring that my supervisor signs a timesheet by the due dates;

I understand that my timesheets must be faxed, emailed, or hand-delivered to the law school Financial Aid Office by noon on the due dates;

I understand that my supervisor may sign the timesheet early if he or she is unavailable on the timesheet due date;

I understand that my timesheet may be signed by an alternate supervisor familiar with my hours; and

I understand that I may include hours unaccounted on later timesheets.

Signature:   _______________________________________________  Date:   _________________
Application Questions

Please submit answers to the following questions. Typed answers are preferred. Please limit your entire submission to a total of 1500 words.

1. Describe the public interest internship, or the public interest internship you hope to attain, that is the basis of this application. Please include the nature of the work, the need for it in the community in which you’ll be working, and the impact you hope to have.

2. Describe why you decided to pursue this work, how it complements your career and professional development goals, and any background experiences prior to and during law school that demonstrate your commitment to public interest.

3. Describe your commitment to and involvement in SPIL, as well as any public interest and/or pro bono activities in which you have engaged during law school. If there is any additional information you feel would be helpful to the Selection Committee in evaluating your application, please also include it here.

SPIL Hours Record

7 of 8
Please record your SPIL hours below. You may also include hours you commit to completing prior to the conclusion of this semester. Please round up hours to the nearest half hour. Typed reports are preferred. Hours and donation items will be verified by the current SPIL Presidents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Type (community service, pro bono, auction, or SPIL)</th>
<th>Activity Name</th>
<th>Approximate Date</th>
<th>Number of Hours Worked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: SPIL First SPIL Meeting</td>
<td>9/17/14</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Auction Items Donated:

Certification
I hereby certify that the hours and donation items reported on this form are correct and accurate.

Applicant Name ___________________________ Date ___________________________