

Investigative Internship- Office of the Appellate Defender, Reinvestigation Project

The Office of the Appellate Defender's Reinvestigation Project was established in 2007 to identify potential cases of wrongful conviction and, where appropriate, file petitions for relief. Because OAD recognizes the profound injustice in waiting years to address wrongful convictions, the Project immediately reviews all cases assigned to OAD by the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department for direct appeal. The Project searches for such wrongful conviction red flags as questionable eyewitness identifications, possible false confessions, the use of informants, unreliable or improperly presented forensic science, police and/or prosecutorial misconduct and ineffective assistance of counsel.

The Reinvestigation Project at OAD is pleased to offer an investigative internship that will provide talented and committed students the opportunity to spend an academic semester learning the fundamentals of investigation and gain significant experience in the field of criminal defense while contributing to justice work. Over the course of the semester, students participating in the investigative internship will receive comprehensive training and supervision from attorneys and staff in the Reinvestigation Project. Working on actual cases, investigative interns will learn how to:

- Locate and interview witnesses;
- Obtain and review documents, trial exhibits, and other evidence
- Create timelines and fact chronologies, digests, indices, and memos;
- Collaborate with attorneys to develop investigative plans;
- Create work product that memorializes communications, interviews, and investigative actions;
- Draft affidavits/declarations to support court filings and testify if necessary.

Qualifications:

- Commitment to social justice, particularly the mission of OAD;
- Ability to interact compassionately with people of diverse professional and cultural backgrounds;
- Detail-oriented and organized self-starter with strong interpersonal and written and verbal communication skills;
- Proficiency with the following systems strongly preferred: Microsoft Office Suite, Dropbox, Slack, Adobe Acrobat or comparable PDF software;

The Office of the Appellate Defender is an equal opportunity employer and strives for diversity among its applicant pool as well as within its staff and board. We strongly encourage people from all backgrounds, especially racial, ethnic, gender and sexual orientation minorities, veterans, people with disabilities, and smart people with non-linear/non-traditional experience and educational backgrounds to apply for this position. Most importantly, no matter their background, the person selected for this position must embrace, advocate for, and deeply value equity, diversity, and inclusivity.