POSTGRADUATE JOB SEARCH GUIDE

Below are resources for your search for a public interest, government, or human rights job. We highly encourage you to speak with a Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) advisor for advice navigating the search process.

Connecting to Your Community

SJI Advisors are available to provide advice on navigating the search process, review application materials, and conduct mock interviews. That includes our NYC-based advisors as well our remote network of advisors who can provide insight into local job markets and public interest organizations in their area.

The quarterly SJI Alumni Newsletter includes public interest news, events for graduates, and information on fellow alumni on the move. Sign up today!

LinkedIn is a great tool for tapping into the Columbia Law School (CLS) network. Join the Public Sector Alumni-Student Connections Group and connect directly with SJI Grad Advisor Tory Messina, SJI Dean Erica Smock, and other SJI advisors. LinkedIn also includes job listings.

You may also want to check out the Alumni Community, a database of all CLS graduates, including the “Social Justice Initiatives Group,” a community of more than 600 graduates committed to public interest and public service.

Our Public Interest Job Search Toolkit is a useful resource for guidance on updating resumes, drafting cover letters, fine-tuning networking and public interest interviewing skills, and more. The Toolkit includes graduate-specific information and tips. If you are interested in international jobs, please see our International Public Interest Job Search Toolkit. If you are an LL.M., please see the LL.M. Supplement.

Tracking Job Positions

When looking for a position, there is no substitute for networking with people who work at organizations and in jobs that interest you; however, the following websites can help you learn what opportunities are out there and what roles most interest you. Most let you sign up for alert emails based on your criteria.

PSJD: The Public Service Jobs Directory is the primary resource for the public interest legal job market. Search for employers and jobs by location, subject matter, or other terms. PSJD also aggregates local and state government opportunities. Getting full access to PSJD requires creating an account.

* If you need a UNI or password assistance for your alumni account, please email Alumni Relations at alumni@law.columbia.edu.
Symplicity**, the CLS job website, contains postgraduate job postings shared by employers specifically interested in CLS graduates.

Idealist is an online platform with a mission to connect “idealists” – people who want to do good – with opportunities for action and collaboration. It lists both legal volunteer and job opportunities with nonprofits and governments in the U.S. and internationally.

USAJobs connects job seekers with federal employment opportunities across the U.S. and around the world.

The Clinical Legal Education Association offers information about clinical teaching and job postings. The CLS Careers in Law Teaching Program is a resource for CLS graduates pursuing careers in academia.

The Association of Corporate Counsel is an international bar association comprised solely of in-house attorneys. They post job listings, including for nonprofit organizations.

The Philanthropy News Digest job listings are a service of the Foundation Center and focus on jobs, including legal jobs, at nonprofits.

Inside Higher Ed and HigherEdJobs have jobs boards with opportunities for those who wish to work at law schools and other colleges and universities in roles that include teaching, administration, and traditional legal counsel.

The United Nations, the UNDP (including UN Volunteers), and Amnesty International list their own job openings. The Human Rights Institute at Georgetown Law School and the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice at Fordham Law School publish newsletters with job listings for law graduates.

** If you need assistance with Symplicity, email careerservices@law.columbia.edu.