

I will be participating in the 10-week Investigative Internship program at the Legal Aid Society in New York City, which is the oldest and largest private not-for-profit organization that provides free legal services to low-income individuals and families in New York City. According to the Society's website, investigative interns "assist lawyers and investigators with fact investigation and trial preparation. Working in teams of two, interns help locate witnesses, conduct interviews, canvass for video surveillance, obtain written statements, perform criminal background checks, review crime scenes, conduct social media searches, prepare trial exhibits and testify in court when necessary. In order to provide students with the skills and tools to perform the job, the program begins with a week-long mandatory orientation and training. Students are given investigator training materials, which they will use throughout their training and internship. The training curriculum includes, but is not limited to: The American legal system, civil law, criminal justice, criminal law, constitutional law, theories of defense. Interns are also provided with skill training such as, case management and organization, understanding system-wide case-flow, interviewing techniques, requirements for taking written statements. Investigative interns gain hands-on experience through shadowing senior staff investigators in the field. Following the initial training, students are paired-up and then assigned a variety of cases with different investigators and attorneys, who will directly supervise the work of the intern... Prior to the close of the internship students must submit a Response Paper providing feedback about their experience as an investigator intern for The Legal Aid Society. Some of these papers have been selected by their schools for publication."