

Drug Policy and Substance Use Treatment Legal Internship Position Description

The Center for Public Health Law Research (CPHLR), housed at Temple University's Beasley School of Law, supports the widespread adoption of scientific tools and methods for mapping and evaluating the impacts of law on health and equity. The CPHLR team works by developing and teaching legal epidemiology methods, researching laws and policies that influence health to support policy development and enactment, and communicating and disseminating evidence to promote policy innovation.

The Center seeks applications from current law students to fill remote internship positions beginning in the Spring 2026 semester and/or the Summer 2026 to form part of the Center's dynamic and expanding team, which consists of lawyers and public policy professionals dedicated to using legal mapping as a tool to support better-informed public health laws and policies.

This internship is a unique opportunity to learn about legal epidemiology and to conduct legal research in furtherance of investigating how law can be used to improve public health. Examples of projects to which students may be assigned include the following:

- Conducting legal research to describe the legislative history and current requirements of federal and Pennsylvania community benefit laws. The intern's work will contribute to a law review article (with the student as lead or co-author, if desired) that analyzes the limitations of community benefit laws and their intersection with the difficulty of large cities, like Philadelphia, to address long standing and often intensifying crises like the persistently high rates of fatal overdoses and other drug-related harms.
- Conducting traditional legal research as well as qualitative interviews of key stakeholders regarding changes to Methadone regulation during the last decade, and how these rules are understood and enforced. Traditional legal research will include review and analysis of regulations, interpretive guidance, and policy making by quasi-governmental professional societies, health systems, and payers. The student will contribute to one or more articles and conduct some educational advocacy activities with the research team.
- Conducting legal research on federal, state, and local laws that require documentation of chronic homelessness before an individual can receive support through numerous supportive housing programs.
- Conducting legal research of federal, state, and local privacy laws that restrict access to health, social services, and criminal justice system data as well as exceptions to such laws for research and practice activities. This research will inform an ongoing effort to facilitate a citywide data sharing ecosystem designed to integrate data across sectors, in furtherance of defining intervention opportunities and mobilizing

political support to deploy and sustain strategies that adequately support services and resources for individuals who circulate through jails and homeless shelters as well as pass repeatedly through hospitals and healthcare systems, especially those with substance use disorders and/or serious mental illness. A student working on this project will have the opportunity to lead or contribute to multiple papers.

- Conducting legal research regarding preliminary questions around pet foster agreements, compliance with ADA and zoning requirements, and related topics to support a mixed methods study to more specifically define the problem surrounding many people in Philadelphia choosing not to engage with available housing and treatment services because of an ongoing need to take care of a pet. A student working on this project will assist the team in issue spotting and a variety of legal research tasks.

This is a paid remote position, funded through a gift made possible by Sandra and Stephen Sheller as part of the [JoAnne A. Epps Fellowship in Drug Policy and Substance Use Treatment](#), a collaboration between Temple Law School and Jefferson University. Interns' work will primarily be supervised by [Evan Anderson, JD, PhD](#), Associate Professor at Jefferson University and inaugural Fellow leading this partnership.

Applicants are strongly preferred to begin as soon as possible during the Spring 2026 semester and hold the position for at least 11 weeks. Applicants available only for Summer 2026 are also encouraged to apply. Position hours are negotiable but expected to be approximately 10 hours per week during the Spring 2026 semester, and 40 hours per week in the Summer 2026 session.

How To Apply:

- The following application materials can be submitted by email to CPHLR Legal Program Manager, Lauren.Fitzgerald.Langan@temple.edu:
 - Resume
 - Cover Letter explaining applicant's experience and/or interest in public health law, and
 - Contact information (name, organization, relationship, and phone and/or email address) for three academic or professional references
- This rolling application process is currently open until **February 6, 2026**, to students interested in paid or unpaid internships, work-study roles, or earning academic credit. Please indicate your preference in your cover letter.
- The hiring process will include at least one virtual interview with CPHLR staff, and CPHLR staff may call references.
- Students may be asked to schedule a drug test as per Temple University policy.