



WDA INTERNSHIP/EXTERNSHIP OPENING

2027 Legislative Policy Intern/Externship from January-April, 2027

Application Due Date: November 2, 2026

The Washington Defender Association is the voice of public defense in Washington state.

WDA is a training, resource and advocacy organization that represents and supports high quality indigent defense in Washington state. We advocate on behalf of public defense attorneys, defense team members, and the clients that they represent. We work to ensure high quality legal representation and the right to justice for all persons accused of a crime, facing the loss of parental rights, or facing civil commitment under the Involuntary Treatment Act, under RCW 71.09 or following a finding of NGRI.

The Washington Defender Association is seeking a current law student or recent graduate to intern/extern with our Legislative Committee during the 2027 WA State Legislative Session. The intern/extern will:

- Track and assess bills affecting criminal defense, public defense, sentencing, racial equity, and criminal justice reform;
- Review and compare proposed and amended legislation; and
- Prepare clear, concise bill summaries, and legislative updates.

Through participation in legislative committee meetings, hearings, testimony, coalition meetings, and advocacy discussions, the extern will learn how legislation develops, how policy priorities are translated into bill language, how stakeholders advocate for changes, and how decisions made throughout the legislative process can affect Washington's criminal legal system. This is an opportunity to develop practical skills in legislative research, bill analysis, statutory interpretation, policy analysis, and legal writing while gaining a firsthand understanding of how meaningful policy changes happen.

This position will require a minimum of 10 hours per week, with ideal starting and ending dates January 11 through April 26, 2027. Work is remote and has flexible hours.

COMPENSATION WDA does not provide compensation for internships and externships and is only able to offer positions to students whose internships are self-supported through a school public interest program, an externship for credit, or a willingness to volunteer.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: WDA seeks interns and externs with a passion for social justice. We value applicants with independent initiative, creative problem-solving skills, and flexibility, who will thrive in a supportive and dynamic work environment. Law student applicants should have strong legal research and writing skills.

TO APPLY: Send your resume and cover letter to wda@defensenet.org

Washington Defender Association is an equal opportunity employer. We actively seek a diverse applicant pool in order to build the strongest possible workforce.