Select IC Legal Internship, Legal Honors Program, and Employment Opportunities

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Legal Honors Program: The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is part of the CIA's Enterprise Functions, which provides governance and oversight to the business of intelligence effort across the Agency at Headquarters and in locations worldwide. OGC is an independent office of the CIA that provides legal advice and guidance to the Agency and to the Director of the CIA. For more information about the CIA Honors Program, please visit: https://www.cia.gov/careers/opportunities/support-professional/attorney.html

Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Legal Internship Programs: DIA offers valuable work experience for college students at every education level. With a variety of programs, internships and entry-level career options, DIA seeks the best and brightest students and recent graduates to bring their knowledge and skills to our diverse workforce.

DIA’s student internship programs provide high-achieving university and college students from accredited institutions throughout the United States with the opportunity to use their degrees in real world settings while continuing their education, thereby better preparing them for careers upon graduation.

The Summer Internship Program (SIP) provides promising undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to gain practical, on-the-job experience working side-by-side with intelligence, technology, human resources, and other professionals in their field of study while providing support to DIA’s mission. While at DIA, interns gain insight into a career in the IC, what it takes to support the warfighter, and how to become a permanent employee at DIA. Interns work for a 10-week period from June through August, as full-time, temporary employees. All interns must be granted a security clearance and successfully pass a drug screening test prior to receiving a final offer.

The Academic Semester Internship (ASIP) provides promising undergraduate and graduate students enrolled as full-time degree-seeking students at U.S. accredited universities and colleges, located within commutable distances to DIA locations, the opportunity to gain practical work experience in intelligence analysis while enrolled in classes. The Agency offers a limited number of paid academic semester internships. Interns work for one semester with the possibility for extension into the following semester. ASIP interns work as part-time temporary employees (working between 16-20 hours per week).

The Cooperative Education (CO-OP) Program provides a select number of talented undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience in combination with their academic studies. This is an excellent opportunity for students seeking to serve their country to participate in the critical work of the Agency through an extended work period. Interns must be eligible to work a continuous, six-month period as a full-time, temporary employee during the six-month CO-OP.

The Louis Stokes Educational Scholarship (STOKES) Program is for a small number of high-achieving high school seniors and college freshman and sophomores interested in a career in public service. STOKES is a needs-based program offering tuition assistance to students enrolled at accredited colleges or universities, while also providing challenging summer work, and guaranteed employment in their field of study upon graduation. Students attend classes full-time during the academic year, and work at DIA during the summer in positions related to their course of study. While in the program, students must maintain an overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) of and 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent).

For more information about DIA Legal Internship Programs, please visit: https://www.dia.mil/Careers-and-Internships/Students/#summer-internship-program
Department of Energy (DOE) Legal Internship: The DOE Office of the General Counsel offers an exciting opportunity for law students to gain firsthand exposure to the fast-moving and evolving practice of energy law. The General Counsel is charged by the Secretary of Energy with the authority to determine the Department’s authoritative position on any question of law. The General Counsel’s Office provides legal advice, counsel, and support to the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, and program offices throughout DOE to further the Department’s mission of advancing the national, economic, and energy security of the United States through scientific and technological innovation and the environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex. The intern program is designed for a select group of law students to become integrated components of our practice groups by working closely with attorneys throughout the Office of the General Counsel. Interns can expect demanding legal research and writing assignments concerning an array of energy-related practice areas, including: energy efficiency, nuclear security and non-proliferation, renewable technologies, alternate fuels vehicles, environmental compliance, intellectual property, alternative dispute resolution, and loan guarantee programs.

For more information about a DOE legal internship, please visit:
https://www.energy.gov/gc/general-counsel-law-student-intern-program

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Legal Internship: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is seeking applicants for the General Counsel's Law Student Summer Volunteer Program. The General Counsel is the chief legal officer for DHS and oversees more than 1,800 attorneys throughout the Department. OGC is responsible for ensuring that departmental activities comply with applicable legal requirements, and that the Department's efforts to secure the Nation are lawful and consistent with the civil rights and civil liberties of our citizens and residents. OGC attorneys work on a broad range of subject matter, including national security law, immigration law, litigation, international law, intellectual property, maritime safety and security, transportation security, border security, cybersecurity, fiscal and appropriations law, federal procurement, and environmental law. OGC also coordinates DHS's rulemaking process, manages interdepartmental clearance of proposed legislation, and provides legal training for law enforcement officers.

For more information about a DHS legal internship, please visit:

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Office of the General Counsel:

FBI Cyber Law Unit: The FBI’s Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is looking for experienced and highly qualified attorneys to join its existing and challenging legal practice. OGC provides legal advice to the entire FBI, including the Director, FBI headquarters officials and agents in the 56 domestic field offices, on a wide range of substantive issues. OGC works closely with other elements of the Department of Justice, other members of the Intelligence Community, including the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the CIA, and the NSA, and the White House. OGC also assists the FBI in forming partnerships with other federal, state, local, and international agencies, as well as private sector entities, in support of FBI operations. The cyber law unit provides legal advice and counsel that drives the FBI’s and overall U.S. efforts to identify, disrupt, and deter malicious cyber actors and activities, and to serve as subject matter experts on the rapidly evolving legal and policy issues impacting the FBI’s investigations and operations in the digital environment.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.justice.gov/legal-careers/job/general-attorney-84
FBI National Security & Cyber Law Branch: Attorneys working in the National Security and Cyber Law Branch (NSCLB) apply their expertise, skills, and education to protect the nation by advising clients on the investigation of counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and cyber matters, the gathering of foreign intelligence, and the protection and use of that information during national security criminal and civil proceedings. NSCLB attorneys also provide legal support to national security and cyber-related policy and legislative initiatives. Finally, NSCLB plays a critical role in handling compliance, oversight, and training for FBI on the use of national security-related investigative tools.

For more information, please visit:

National Geospatial Agency (NGA) Legal Internship Program: Student employment assignments are open to associate, undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students and are based on entry-level professional job descriptions, which will involve a great deal of independent and team-oriented work under the guidance of a senior-level supervisor and mentors. Students who perform successfully and meet program requirements are invited to continue in the program for the duration of their degree programs, and may be granted the opportunity for conversion to permanent employment upon graduation.

For more information about the NGA Legal Internship Program, please visit:

National Security Agency (NSA) Legal Honors Program: Each year, NSA OGC seeks superior entry-level attorneys to join its Legal Honors Program. Honors attorneys have opportunities to analyze cutting-edge technical and intelligence issues and will frequently provide legal advice that relates to high-profile current events affecting our national security. The program is a three-year term appointment that includes rotations through two of OGC's legal practice groups, which include Operational Authorities; Operational Support; Administrative Law & Ethics; Acquisition, Research & Technology; Litigation; Legislation; and Law & Policy. Each Honors attorney will rotate through at least one practice group that directly advises on NSA mission activities. Attorneys selected for the Legal Honors Program will also have opportunities to attend high-level security briefings, meetings, and congressional hearings on national security issues, liaise directly with intelligence community partners and other federal agencies, and tour facilities throughout the intelligence community, all while working under the guidance and mentorship of a senior attorney assigned to them from among the leadership of OGC. Honors attorneys will be poised at the close of their three-year term to apply successfully for a permanent attorney position within OGC or to utilize the skills acquired during the program to launch a career outside of the Agency in national security law or other legal disciplines. Indeed, some of our Honors attorneys have gone on to high-profile positions on congressional committee staffs and to become full-time attorneys here at the Agency, providing cutting-edge legal advice on cybersecurity issues.

NSA OGC recruits for the Legal Honors Program each fall through on-campus interviews and online applications. Eligibility is limited to law students who will graduate at the end of the Fall or Spring semester that follows the release of the vacancy announcement with no prior legal experience (other than summer associate or intern positions); or recent law school graduates (within the last two years) who are seeking their first legal position following a judicial clerkship or graduate law program (e.g., L.L.M.) that commenced immediately after law school graduation.

For more information about the NSA Legal Honors Program, please visit:
https://www.nsa.gov/about/ogc
NSA OGC also recruits experienced attorneys. Applicants must have at least three years of experience as a practicing attorney. Vacancy announcements are released in January, April, and September, as well as on a rolling basis, and can be found on IntelligenceCareers.gov. The majority of the announcements seek general legal experience, unless OGC has identified a need for expertise in a specific area of law (i.e. patents, ethics, government contracting, etc.).

Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Office of General Counsel (OGC): The OGC/ODNI seeks qualified 2Ls, 3Ls, and LLM students for its internship program. Interns will take on a variety of duties, which include:

- Assisting attorneys in providing oral and written advice to senior officials in the ODNI.
- Working with other agencies on national security litigation, policy, and related topics.
- Supporting ODNI components to ensure compliance with relevant statutes and regulations.
- Revising and vetting regulations and internal policy directives.
- Assisting the OGC in the administration of the agency and the wider IC.
- The position will expose interns to numerous areas of law and related policies, including; national security law, intelligence law, procurement and acquisition law, personnel law, government ethics, budget and fiscal law, administrative law, legislative support, government informational practices under the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act, and IP law.
- OGC works to provide practical, accurate, and timely legal guidance and counsel to ODNI, to safeguard the legal rights of American citizens, and to ensure that all employees and contractors assigned to ODNI comply with U.S. law and any applicable regulations and directives.
- OGC’s mission also includes supporting ODNI in carrying out the statutory responsibility of that office to ensure that IC elements that are part of the National Intelligence Program comply with the Constitution and laws of the United States. To this end, OGC works closely with legal officers across the IC to coordinate the development of legal mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of ODNI policies within the larger constitutional, statutory, and regulatory framework that bounds IC activities.

Applicants must be U.S. Citizens who—at the time of the application—hold a TS/SCI security clearance based on a Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) that was completed within the past five years. For more information, please visit:

ODNI/OGC is also currently hiring attorneys at the GS 13 to GS 15 levels. We seek qualified individuals dedicated to provide superb legal counsel to ODNI senior leadership in a variety of practice areas, including areas of law affecting ODNI's core duties and responsibilities under the National Security Act, presidential directives, and executive orders, as well as other areas including administrative law, intellectual property law, employment law, and litigation. Additional information concerning qualifications, requirements, and application instructions may be found at:

Information about other IC elements’ legal internship, honors program, and other employment opportunities may be found online on individual element websites.