

Public Interest Jobs in Labor and Employment Law

Before you start

As you begin your job search, consider both what type of experience you are interested in gaining and where you hope to gain that experience. Public interest jobs in labor and employment law can include direct services, administrative adjudication, litigation, advocacy, and policy work.

Unions, worker centers, and non-profit organizations

- The [Peggy Browning Fund](#) (PBF) is a centralized fellowship listing dozens of unions, workers centers, non-profits, and public interest law firms looking for summer interns. The fellowship offers summer programming and a network of workers' rights leaders. PBF generally begins accepting applications mid-December and closes applications in mid-January. Note that you have to submit independent applications for each organization, so plan ahead if you're interested in applying through the fund. Some positions are funded while others require you to secure outside funding.
- Many unions and nonprofits also hire directly and through the [AFLs Union Lawyer's Association](#) (often before the PBF deadline).
- Other organizations dealing with workers' rights where YLS students have worked include [A Better Balance](#); [National Domestic Workers' Alliance](#); [National Women's Law Center](#); [Public Justice](#); and [Public Rights Project](#).

Public interest law firms

- Many public interest law firms focus on employment and labor law. Some are listed through PBF and others hire independently. The [AFLs Union Lawyer's Association](#) can give you a sense of some of these firms.
- Some firms specializing in workers' rights where YLS students have worked include [Altshuler Berzon](#) in San Francisco, [Bredhoff & Kaiser](#) in D.C., and [Cohen Weiss](#) in New York. These firms tend to hire in the summer and early fall for 2Ls.
- If firms do not have specific internship listings, students have had success reaching out to ask if they accept interns or to talk to one of their lawyers about their work.
- You can also see the YLS page on [public interest law firms](#) for a broader discussion of public interest law firms.

Government

- Administrative agencies working on employment and labor law include the [Department of Labor](#), the [National Labor Relations Board](#), the [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#), and the Department of Justice's [Employment Litigation](#) and [Immigrant & Employee Rights Sections](#).
- Congressional opportunities include the [House Education & Labor Committee](#) and the [Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions](#).
- State and local governments can offer additional opportunities for litigation and policy experiences. Depending on the state, these internships can offer opportunities for more creative and cutting-edge litigation. See, for example, the [California AG's Worker Rights & Fair Labor Division](#).

International workers' rights

- Many organizations focused on international labor are also listed through PBF. You can also look at prior [Kirby Simon Summer Fellowships](#) and discuss options with Jim Silk and Hope Metcalf at the Schell Center.