

# Diversity Clerkship Program



## About the Program

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The State Bar's Diversity Clerkship Program is a limited-term, summer employment opportunity that gives first-year Marquette University Law School and University of Wisconsin Law School students who have come a background that has been historically excluded in the legal field the opportunity to build legal practice skills and knowledge. Student clerks gain practical legal experience, and participating employers obtain valuable legal support.

### Program Goals

- Provide legal employers with access to 1L law students who have come a background that has been historically excluded in the legal field from Wisconsin law schools
- Enhance law student academic education with practical legal work experience
- Expose law students to varied legal employment opportunities
- Provide full-time, limited-term summer clerkship experiences with premier legal organizations

### Student Eligibility

First-year Marquette University Law School and University of Wisconsin Law School students with diverse backgrounds who are in good standing may apply. Successful applicants demonstrate a commitment to diversifying the legal field and a record of academic achievement.

### Employer Eligibility

Although our employer roster changes from year to year, we look for a broad representation of employers that reflect the real-world legal environment, including traditional law firms, government agencies, and in-house counsel.

We primarily recruit employers from Wisconsin, and a majority of our employers are located in Madison and Milwaukee. We have occasionally had a few employers located in small to medium, sized Wisconsin cities or out of state.

Employers provide the same salary, work experience, and social opportunities to our clerkship students as they provide to any of their other summer associates.

All labor and employment laws relating to hiring a student through the program must be followed. Many employers provide an in-house mentor for their student clerk. The program requires employers to provide students with periodic evaluations during the summer and an exit interview at the end of the clerkship term of service.

Our roster of employers changes from year to year. A finalized list of employers is not available until early February 2023.

### Continued Employment

Participating employers commit to hiring a student for a limited period of time during the summer. Outside of the program, employers and students are free to negotiate continuing employment.

### State Bar Sponsorship

The Diversity Clerkship Program is an initiative of the State Bar of Wisconsin. The State Bar's Diversity Inclusion and Oversight Committee oversees the program with the help of State Bar staff. Committee members recruit employers and students for the program; a selection committee meets to select students to participate in the program; and a matching committee determines the employer-student clerkship assignments.

For more information about the program, please contact Jacque Evans, State Bar of Wisconsin, 608-250-6083 / [jevans@wisbar.org](mailto:jevans@wisbar.org).

### Diversity Clerkship Recognition Reception

Each year, the State Bar's Diversity Inclusion and Oversight Committee plans a recognition reception honoring past and present Diversity Clerkship employers and law clerks. The reception is typically held in July. All employers and students are encouraged to come to this evening of celebration.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
DECEMBER 15, 2023**



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