
Unpaid Clerking

Posted by steve - 2010/06/21 22:31

Many users email us at Legalnut asking if we are aware of any legal/law clerking positions. Due to the current economic environment, many firms are scaling back on paid staffing positions. However, for those of you that are searching for learning opportunities, i recommend that you consider contacting law firms and inquiring about unpaid volunteer positions. As the users of the forum have said many times before, its not always about what you earn, but rather what you learn. The skills, knowledge and connections you make while clerking can prove to be very valuable and assist you throughout your career.

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by sbaco - 2010/06/23 22:56

the problem is that you cant deposit free in the bank steve. LOL.

I get what you are saying and its a good idea.

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by laurie - 2010/06/28 22:30

Good luck even getting into a firm offering "free" labor - firms just are not taking on law clerks unless you have clerked there before or you are top 10 with law review editor on your resume.

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by lydiuz - 2010/06/30 22:23

Today was my first day clerking for a solo practitioner and all he did was complain about the practice of law. Its was rather annoying and disappointing. I really dont even want to return to his office. Anyone else have a similar experience while shadowing an attorney?

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by smarx08 - 2010/07/05 18:35

I start an unpaid clerking position at a solo practitioner's office tomorrow. I also have an interview next month with a large firm. I am hoping that i can gain some experience from the solo office that will help me excel at the large firm, should i get hired.

I dont mind volunteering to get some experience, as it is hard to come by considering there are many law school grads with no work.

Beggars cant be choosers.

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by Aces wild - 2010/07/07 22:43

Many unpaid internships violate minimum wage laws in states such as Oregon and California and other states have begun investigations and fined employers

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by B Line - 2010/07/08 23:03

That doesnt make any sense. If people were prohibited from volunteering then my mother couldnt volunteer at the church otherwise the church could get fined. I think your understanding of the law is flawed.

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by cn/ecf - 2010/07/12 21:51

I've called 3 firms and no one has work for me. Doesnt it suck when you cant even give it away?

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by B Line - 2010/08/20 22:50

I often checkout <http://www.usajobs.gov/> for clerking positions. Its a great source and looks excellent on a resume. Plus, government work schedules are usually flexible.

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by nic - 2010/08/30 22:29

If it makes you feel any better, my college roommate has a mechanical engineering degree and cant find a job. Same for teachers.

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by Bob - 2010/09/07 22:54

I just finished an unpaid clerking position at a small law firm in Sedona AZ. The partners were great. they spent a lot of time teaching me everything, litigation, drafting, writing, etc. I feel light years ahead of my class mates and i now have a legal reference for my next job. I feel as if i have a better change of success in the practice of law after a short 4 month internship. I highly recommend a clerking inter-ship even if its unpaid, as i learned a lot more than money and a lot more than what 1st yr of law school provided.

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Re:Unpaid Clerking

Posted by sbaco - 2010/09/13 22:42

Thats good to hear. Glad you learned a lot. How did you land the job? Did you cold call or have an "in" to the firm.?

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