



Volunteers of Legal Service – Benefits Law Project Summer 2026 Internship

Organizational Overview

Since 1984, VOLS has partnered with New York City’s leading law firms and companies and community-based organizations to help close the access to justice gap for low-income New Yorkers. VOLS provides free, civil legal services to New Yorkers with limited resources, including older adults, veterans, small business owners, individuals entitled to public benefits, immigrant young people, mothers in prison or jail, children and families. Last year, VOLS assisted clients on more than 4,000 legal matters, and our services benefited over 6,400 New Yorkers. VOLS’ staff of 22, including 15 attorneys and law graduates, work with pro bono volunteers from over 80 law firms/companies to exponentially increase our impact. We collaborate with 150 community groups to ensure that our services are accessible and address local needs.

Project Overview

Amid ever-rising living costs, low-income New Yorkers face systemic barriers in accessing vital government benefits and often need legal assistance and guidance to access, maintain, and troubleshoot these benefits. Without these benefits, they cannot afford food for their families, they cannot pay rent and face eviction, and they cannot provide for their basic needs. Our Benefits Law Project helps New Yorkers with Unemployment Insurance benefits, SCRIE and DRIE rent freeze benefits, and other needs-based rental benefits. Specifically, the BLP provides clear advice, assesses complex eligibility guidelines, assists with applications, provides representation in administrative hearings to challenge benefit denials, and provides advocacy to city agencies to troubleshoot benefit issues. The BLP provides this assistance through our legal hotline and in-person and phone-based clinics, in partnership with volunteer attorneys.

Internship Description

The intern will allow VOLS to expand our current capacity to help low-income New Yorkers access and obtain benefits. The intern will: 1) conduct intakes for clients who need legal assistance; 2) follow-up with clients during the intake and review process; 3) provide counsel and advice to clients under attorney supervision; 4) help develop new and refine existing training materials for our volunteer attorneys; 5) assist with in-person clinics; and 6) help develop new and refine existing pro bono and public facing outreach materials.



Location, Vaccination, and In-Person Work Requirements

VOLS Office is located at: 40 Worth, Street, Suite 829, New York, NY 10013.

This is a hybrid internship position. Interns will benefit from joining in person staff and team meetings, clinics, presentations, client meetings, and other in-person events and are expected to comply with any law school minimum on-site requirements.

All VOLS employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless a medical or religious accommodation is approved.

Application Contact

To apply, please email a cover letter and resume to apply@volspobono.org with the subject line: "Benefits Law Project Summer 2026 Internship." Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Commitment to Inclusion

VOLS is an equal opportunity employer. VOLS strives to build and maintain a workplace that embraces staff with different backgrounds, identities, and experiences. We welcome applicants from marginalized communities, including, but not limited to, those who identify as Black, Indigenous, people of color, women, queer, transgender, gender non-conforming, disabled, immigrants, veterans, people from low socio-economic backgrounds, and those directly impacted by the legal system. VOLS does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, creed, age, disability, sexual orientation, biological sex, gender identity/expression, family status, military service or any other status protected under the law.