



**Legal Intern Job Description –
Tangled Title Program
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service**

Make a difference and get practical legal experience!

Founded in 1981, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) is the oldest and largest pro bono legal services organization in Maryland. The mission of MVLS is to provide quality civil legal services to Marylanders of limited means or low or no cost.

MVLS core values are: teamwork, passion for MVLS's mission, commitment to clients, volunteers, and community partners, initiative and commitment to eliminate systemic barriers to justice based on race and economic disparities.

MVLS is committed to fostering an inclusive culture in the workplace. Our work to end barriers to justice starts with increasing the racial diversity of our staff to better reflect the communities we serve.

Summary: Law students interested in a public interest career and working to ensure that Marylanders facing economic hardship receive quality civil legal services at low or no cost are encouraged to apply. Areas of focus include estate planning, estate administration, and deed transfers. Specific topics of legal research may include estate planning, estate administration, quiet title actions, partition actions, and heirs' property. In addition to researching developing areas of law, interns will have an opportunity to gain insight to the practical application of their research.

Responsibilities:

- Assist staff attorneys with client cases including estate planning/administration, deed transfers, and others.
- Work will include conducting client interviews, drafting pleadings, and other related legal tasks to move cases forward.
- Draft legal research and creation of self-help materials for pro se clients

- Participate in advocacy aimed at legislative reform that would stabilize housing in communities impacted by wealth extraction, with an emphasis on communities on the Eastern Shore.
- Support client intake and placement efforts by: conducting phone intake with clients to identify potential legal issues; reviewing applications for a wide range of civil legal issues; and making direct contact with our volunteer attorneys to assist with the assignment and closing of cases.

All intern duties will be supervised by an MVLS staff attorney.

Qualifications

Current law students may apply. An interest in public interest law is a plus. Student must be willing to travel to the Eastern Shore to conduct outreach.

Compensation

This is an unpaid internship. MVLS does accept UBSPI and MPILP public-interest grant applicants. MVLS does participate in law school externship programs for credit.

Work Schedule

Fall/Spring internships. The intern is required to volunteer at least 10 hours a week. The work schedule is negotiable but must be during normal business hours which are Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM.

Summer internships. Full time – Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

Internship Experience

From recent law student interns:

“What I enjoyed the most about my internship at MVLS was how I could end each day feeling like I made a positive difference”

“My research skills were put to use at MVLS. While I was there, I researched child custody in Maryland. This document is now what I use as a professional writing sample.”

“MVLS was perfect for me, as it was my first legal internship, and gave me exposure to a variety of civil litigation I ordinarily wouldn’t have gotten in one single placement.”

“I found my internship at MVLS helped me to learn about areas of the law that I had little familiarity with going in. The MVLS staff were helpful and engaged in helping me learn. I enjoyed the opportunity to serve low-income Marylanders while enriching my legal education.”

To read about more experiences go to <http://bit.ly/2uH8EYn>.

Application

Please send a cover letter and resume to:

Margaret Henn, Director of Program Management
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service
mhenn@mvlslaw.org