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THE PUBLIC INTEREST INDIAN LAW FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ALEXANDER, BERKEY, WILLIAMS & WEATHERS LLP 2011-2012

ABWW Public Interest Indian Law Fellowships

Alexander, Berkey, Williams & Weathers LLP (ABWW) established the Public Interest Indian Law Fellowship Program in 2005. The aims of the Fellowship are to encourage recent law graduates to work in the field of Indian law and to provide the Fellows with an opportunity to pursue public interest projects in Indian country. The Fellow is encouraged to develop innovative legal strategies for projects which may not traditionally be feasible endeavors for a private law firm. The Firm's intent is to provide bright, creative law graduates with the time and resources to tackle public interest, social justice, and related issues in Indian country. The Fellowship intends to contribute to the development of public interest Indian law leaders of the future, whatever their career paths might be.

About ABWW

The firm is a private, for-profit partnership with a significant public interest focus. The firm has four attorneys and two paralegals in Berkeley, California, one attorney in Washington DC, and one attorney in Bozeman, Montana. The firm works exclusively for Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and currently has clients throughout the United States. Natural resources protection, environmental justice, water and fishing rights, recovery of ancestral lands, tribal sovereignty, self-governance, economic development, Indian child welfare, employment, and health care are representative areas of work. The Firm's work is funded primarily by its fee-paying tribal clients, as well as generous contributions from private foundations. More information may be found at the firm's web site: www.abwwlaw.com.

About the Fellowship

The one- to two-year Fellowships offer a modest salary, full benefits, training, flexibility in balancing work and a private life, and the opportunity to work with experienced attorneys in an established firm focused exclusively on serving Indian tribes and tribal organizations. The Fellow will work in the Berkeley, California office. The Fellowship begins in September, 2011, with some flexibility depending upon the candidate's schedule. ABWW is committed to recruiting attorneys who will bring a variety of experiences to the firm's clients, and to supporting them by providing the resources necessary to building a strong career in Indian law.

The projects on which a Fellow might work are subject to the creativity of the Fellow and the needs or demands of a particular client tribe or tribal organization. In the past, the ABWW Fellow has worked for organized but unrecognized California tribes seeking to protect cultural sites threatened by land development, and tribes whose children are subject to state juvenile dependency proceedings. The Firm's public interest and pro bono work includes projects intended to protect cultural sites, promote Indian-organized educational institutions, connect Indian communities to electric and telecommunications grids, recover ancestral lands, expand economic development opportunities for tribes, and others.

Qualifications and Selection Criteria

Applications are encouraged from recent law graduates with a demonstrated commitment to Indian law. Preference is given to candidates, both Indian and non-Indian, who demonstrate personal or professional experience and identification with Indian communities. High academic achievements are certainly considered, but they are weighed with other equally significant factors: personal accomplishments, professional goals, cultural competence, and the capacity to work conscientiously and independently as needed. Candidates with interest in specific public interest projects are encouraged to bring their proposals to the firm. Candidates are encouraged to seek their own funding as well, as the firm's ability to offer the fellowship is contingent on funding. Membership in the California Bar, or the Bar of another state, though not essential, is a significant factor in the firm's evaluation of candidates.

Applying for the Fellowship

Interested law graduates should send a resume and a writing sample to Gloria Coronado, Administrative Assistant, at gcoronado@abwwlaw.com. If you have any questions, please email.