**Externships with the Juvenile Services Program at PDS**

JSP was started more than 30 years ago in response to the abysmal conditions and systematic abuse of children in D.C.’s juvenile detention facilities. Today, the program is staffed by a manager, two staff attorneys, and law clerks/externs. JSP has offices inside New Beginnings Youth Development Center (the juvenile prison in Laurel, Maryland) and the Youth Services Center (the juvenile jail on Mount Olivet Road in northeast D.C.). The offices at the facilities are staffed primarily by law students, who represent children in disciplinary hearings to prevent clients being placed in solitary confinement. We treat the disciplinary hearings like mini-trials and after training, the law clerks handle the hearings by themselves. This is a great opportunity for aspiring public defenders to get hands-on experience with client interviews; investigation; developing a defense; mastering procedural rules; and presenting procedural objections, arguments on the merits, and mitigation evidence in an administrative hearing. If the client requests an appeal, that is also handled by the law clerk.

In addition to the disciplinary hearings, law clerks help securely detained youth contact their lawyers and social workers and handle a host of client requests regarding conditions of confinement. A few recent examples: getting medications reinstated for a recently detained youth, securing release for an illegally detained client, and placing a client who fears homelessness on a city-wide waiting list for placement at a youth shelter.

Required qualifications: Commitment for two full days a week (both weekdays), for an entire academic semester.

Travel: YSC is accessible by public transportation (D8 bus from Rhode Island Avenue Metro); New Beginnings is accessible only by car. PDS offers generous mileage reimbursement that comes to about $22 round trip.

Interested? Apply on-line at: <http://www.pdsdc.org/careers/law-clerkships-for-law-students>

In your cover letter, please indicate which academic semester you are interested in, and whether you have access to a car.