

## **Gonzaga Law in Action 2020**

The Center for Civil and Human Rights is excited to launch a new Spring Break opportunity, Gonzaga Law in Action, for five Gonzaga law students committed to civil and human rights.

The Center will be collaborating with Columbia Legal Services (CLS), which has recently adopted a new strategic direction to focus advocacy efforts on dismantling and transforming two of the key racialized systems that perpetuate poverty, injustice, and dehumanization: mass incarceration and the violent impacts of the immigration system. The Center for Civil and Human Rights is excited to partner with CLS on the important issue of mass incarceration and its effects on society.

During Spring Break 2020 (March 9-13, 2020), the Center for Civil and Human Rights will provide housing and travel to five law students to work with CLS to dismantle and transform the system of mass incarceration. Selected law students will conduct legal research in the area of prisoners' rights, as well as investigate how people incarcerated in Washington state prisons are treated through document review and interviewing people who are impacted. Law students will also receive a prison law training and an equity training focused on anti-racist principles relevant to legal advocacy. The work produced during Spring Break 2020 will assist CLS in their advocacy, which often involves class-action lawsuits, appellate work, and legislative action in coalition with communities impacted by mass incarceration and deportation.

Participation in this Spring Break opportunity is a good way for law students to connect with CLS. Students interested in this opportunity would benefit from reading Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow" which provides a helpful framework that shapes CLS's mass incarceration work.

Applicants must submit the following materials to the Center for Civil & Human Rights by email to [civilrightscenter@gonzaga.edu](mailto:civilrightscenter@gonzaga.edu) no later than Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at 5:00 pm:

1. Resume
2. Cover letter that includes answers to the following questions:
  - a. Why are you interested in this opportunity with Gonzaga Law in Action? What makes you a good candidate for this opportunity?
  - b. Do you have lived or other demonstrated meaningful and sustained experience with people living in poverty, people of color, immigrant, or indigenous communities or the criminal legal system?
  - c. Do you have concerns interacting with or advocating for people with serious criminal convictions?
  - d. How will this spring break opportunity further your own professional goals?

Students must be in Academic Good Standing (GPA of 2.2 or higher) in order to be chosen for this opportunity. Selected students will be notified by February 14, 2020.