



## ECI Student Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street No. Street Name City State Zip

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ T-number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Status  1L  2L  3L  
Semester Applying for:  Fall  Summer  Spring

Program Applying for (check all that apply):

- ECI Research & Writing  ECI Admin
- Innocence Project:  paid  volunteer
- ECI Clinic:  Property  Juvenile

Other Areas of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Semester Course Load (Hours) \_\_\_\_\_ Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Currently Employed:  Yes: Hours working per week \_\_\_\_\_  No

Hours Available for work at ECI:

Monday	_____	to	_____
Tuesday	_____	to	_____
Wednesday	_____	to	_____
Thursday	_____	to	_____
Friday	_____	to	_____

Attachments submitted:  Letter of Interest  Unofficial Transcript  Writing Sample

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

For ECI Use only:

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ If applicable, date W-9 submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Recommendation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Project Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_



## **EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL & SOCIAL POLICY, INC. STUDENT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION**

The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc. (ECI) offers employment and learning opportunities for qualified students. The following information explains who we are, what we do, and how you can apply to become a part of the ECI team.

### **Who is Earl Carl?**

The Institute was named in honor of Professor Earl Carl, a founding faculty member of the law school at Texas Southern University now known as Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Professor Carl, blind from an early age, graduated from Fisk University before going on to earn his law degree and masters of law degree from Yale University Law School. He is a human symbol that people can accomplish whatever they are willing to despite all odds. His achievements remind us that we are limited only by the barriers we chose not to overcome.

### **What does the institute do?**

The Earl Carl Institute was established in 1992, by Professor Marcia Johnson, to help solve legal and social problems facing the urban community through scholarship and advocacy. The institute is a non-profit (501(c)(3)) affiliate of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University (TSU). TSU was designated by the Texas Legislature as an urban institution. That designation charges the university with solving urban problems.

### **How we achieve our mission through scholarship and advocacy?**

The Institute has two primary components which are a research and writing component and an advocacy component.

As part of its research and writing component, the Institute contracts with students it helps educate to research and write about urban issues. That research is compiled and reported in law review type papers that are published with a view toward impacting legal and social policy in those areas. Students also research issues presented by community-based organizations and national, state and local legislators.

The Institute's advocacy component is a legal apprenticeship program, through the Center for Civil Advocacy (CCA) and the Center for Criminal Justice (CCJ), where students work on real cases from inception to resolution. All work performed by the students in this program is under the general counsel of Institute attorneys who are specialists in these areas.

### **How are students compensated?**

Students are currently paid by Thurgood Marshall School of Law. The payment is a stipend for the semester generally paid in two parts. Students must be able to timely submit all documents requested by the university in order to ensure that they are paid.



### How many students work with the institute?

Typically twelve students work with the institute during the Fall, 13 students during the Spring and 6 students during the summer; Students are assigned as research/writers or as student attorneys with the CCA and CCJ.

### How many hours per week is a student expected to work?

Students are expected to work a maximum of 10 hours per week during fall and spring semesters. Students who work during the summer semester may work up to 20 hours per week. Any student seeking to work more than the allotted hours per week during a given semester must obtain prior approval from the Institute's director.

### How are the students selected?

**Students must have at least a 2.7 GPA \*. 2Ls and 3Ls may apply to be researchers but 3Ls are given preference in working in the Institute's clinical programs.**

We select students who want to work with the institute, who perform well in their classes, who have strong character and high moral and ethical standards. Our expectations are high so we look for high achievers with strong work ethics.

Our students have historically out-performed their classmates on the bar exam. Students who have participated in our programs have typically performed at a high bar pass rate.

\*A student may petition the Executive Director for a waiver of the GPA requirement. Such waivers have been granted on a limited basis.

### How are students assigned to projects?

Student assignments are made by ECI's management team. The assignments are based on the needs of the Institute, the student's interest, and the Institute's priorities. The Institute's current research and writing priorities are in the areas of education, housing, family and criminal justice.

Current advocacy and educational projects of the institute include:

- The **Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project (OMLPPP)** which provides legal representation to clients to assist them with retaining or growing wealth through assistance with preventing property loss. Students handle cases involving probate to clear title, foreclosure prevention, delinquent tax suits, property tax exemptions and protests, partitioning real property, adverse possession claims, consumer credit card debt cases, and formation of nonprofit corporations related to community development.
- The **Juvenile Justice Project** provides legal representation to foster children who are involved in multiple juvenile systems. The services provided by this project includes representation of students (1) in court, who have received Class C Misdemeanor Tickets for in-school behaviors, (2) in school on school related disciplinary actions,



(3) with expunctions for children aging out of foster care and needing to obtain employment and housing. This program attempts to address the disproportionate minority contact of African American children in child welfare systems.

- **The ECI Interdisciplinary Journal for Legal & Social Policy** - publishes papers primarily on housing, education and criminal justice issues that impact legal and social policy in the urban community. The Journal is an online publication that features articles from multi-disciplines that address issues effecting minority populations. The journal is published bi-annually in February and August. The journal can be accessed at [www.ecipublications.org/ijlsp](http://www.ecipublications.org/ijlsp). Occasionally, additional social issues that impact the urban community may be covered within the context of papers or essays.
- **Center for Criminal Justice** - The CCJ provides oversight for the TMSL Innocence Project. This Center currently hires 2 students per semester to assist with administrative tasks associated with the Innocence Project. In addition the Center provides oversight for research projects focused on issues surrounding indigent defense reforms.
- **Street Law** - is an educational, legal outreach program that trains current law students to teach law at schools throughout Houston-Harris County. Specifically, TMSL law students who participate in this program are provided with a curriculum on various aspects of criminal law. The law students participate in “train the trainer” classes with the ECI Associate Director. The law students then train high school students, on a weekly basis, through the use of interactive teaching strategies including mock trials, moot courts and simulated negotiations that allow students to hone their communication and analytical skills while gaining exposure to other professionals and the community.

Pending research topics which ECI wishes to continue work on through the 2016 - 2017 academic year are:

- Jail Reentry programs for reducing overcrowding
- Teen Dating Violence in the Urban Community
- Changing the Age of juvenile criminal jurisdiction from 17 to 18
- Homeless Foster Youth
- Videotaping of Custodial Interrogations to prevent false confessions
- Cognitive Bias and it’s impact in the education, criminal justice and healthcare systems
- Disproportionate Minority Contact across Systems
- Decriminalizing Poverty
- Policy changes that effectuate expeditious Prosecution of Actual Innocence Claims
- Research Related to the “School to Prison Pipeline”



### What does a student need to do to apply?

Students wishing to apply for a position with ECI should obtain and complete an employment application. Return your completed application with a letter of interest, an unofficial transcript and a 3 - 5 page writing sample.

You may return your application by email to Ms. Lucinda Daniels, Associate Director of Student Development, at [lrDaniels@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:lrDaniels@tmslaw.tsu.edu). The ECI staff will review your application packet and decide whether they wish to schedule you for an interview.

Once a student is offered a position with ECI s/he will be instructed to complete their application by completing several HR forms on the TSU website ([www.tsu.edu](http://www.tsu.edu)) as directed by the law school's Director of Administration.

For more information about the hiring process call Ms. Daniels at 713.313.1156 or the Executive Director, Sarah R. Guidry, at 713.313.1321. You may also visit our website at [www.earlcarlinstitute.org](http://www.earlcarlinstitute.org) for more information about the work of the Institute.