

THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE

THE GREENLINING LEGAL ACADEMY: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC INTEREST LAW AND CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY

ABOUT GREENLINING

The Greenlining Institute is a public policy think tank and research institute that advocates for minority communities throughout the state of California and the nation. Our mission is to empower communities of color and other disadvantaged groups through multi-ethnic economic and leadership development, civil rights and anti-redlining activities. The vision of the Institute is to utilize our advocacy successes to connect scholarship and public policymaking with the realities facing minority and low-income communities.

The Institute emerged from the Greenlining Coalition, perhaps the oldest coalition of African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and Latino community leaders organized around a common purpose. With the formal founding of the Institute in 1993, Greenlining set out to create an antidote to redlining, the illegal yet common practice of denying, limiting, or overcharging for financial services and products to low-income and minority communities. Since the Institute's founding, it has blossomed into a major policy player throughout California and the nation. In partnership with a dynamic multi-ethnic coalition of diverse organizations, the Institute has successfully connected private enterprise and community organizations in innovative partnerships, garnering over \$2.4 trillion dollars in investments into traditionally underserved areas.

Greenlining's legal advocacy is policy-focused and strives to protect and promote the interests of California's vulnerable communities. Through its policy and legal advocacy Greenlining creates a dynamic which brings together diverse voices within California to overcome fragmentation of local advocacy, policy, and community organizing efforts. Central to the work of Greenlining is the "big picture" recognition of the interrelatedness of issues to its constituency. For example, the ways in which education affects our future socio-economic status, which affects our access to safe and affordable housing, which in turn affects our health, and so forth. It is this recognition that pushes Greenlining to aim for nothing less than a paradigm shift across California's movements for justice.

THE GREENLINING LEGAL ACADEMY

In pursuit of innovative legal strategies and advocacy, the Greenlining Legal Academy seeks to train law students to be skilled, ethical, and reform-minded professionals. In addition to learning practical legal skills such as interviewing, counseling, negotiating, writing and oral advocacy, students are urged to scrutinize the quality of justice for communities of color and low-income communities. The goal of the Greenlining Legal Academy is to provide students with the skills to protect and promote the interests of California's most vulnerable populations; persons who are low-income, speak limited English or are recent immigrants.

Legal Academy students will work closely with Greenlining's Managing Attorney in the area of consumer protection by intervening in emergent situations and initiating legal actions before such administrative bodies as, the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Department of Insurance, the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Reserve. Areas of engagement are as diverse as telecommunications, energy, public utilities, emerging technologies, banking and insurance. Legal Academy students may also work closely with Greenlining's Managing Attorney when filing amicus briefs in a variety of legal proceedings in federal and state courts. Recent Greenlining cases include the negotiation of diversity guarantees during the SBC/AT&T and Verizon/MCI mergers, the legal battle between New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, low-income

community protection in light of energy company rate increases, efforts to bridge the digital divide, and drawing attention to the declining diversity in the University of California education system.

Students will also assist the Managing Attorney in communicating with Greenlining coalition members and organizing community efforts to support regulatory, legal and legislative programs. Students will participate in meetings with regulators, legislators, commissioners, top government officials, corporate CEOs, and political leaders on issues critical to Greenlining constituencies. From these experiences students will learn how to analyze the strategic and tactical decisions about where and how to intervene in the complicated system of actors and institutions that establish and implement public policies. Students will also consider how to make creative use of the legal system to affect positive change for low-income and minority communities.



APPLICATION TO THE GREENLINING LEGAL ACADEMY

The Greenlining Legal Academy is open to law students who have completed either their first or second year of law school and accepts students during the fall semester, the spring semester and the summer. Greenlining seeks talented, self-motivated individuals committed to equality and justice. Legal Academy associates generally possess the following traits:

- ◆ A demonstrated commitment to public interest lawyering and social justice
- ◆ Strong research and communications skills
- ◆ Ability to multi-task
- ◆ Ability to work well with diverse groups
- ◆ Strong personal initiative and motivation
- ◆ Meaningful involvement in school, the workplace and/or community
- ◆ Open to new ideas

Application materials for the **Summer Legal Academy** must be completed and postmarked by **January 15, 2010** to be eligible for consideration. Applications that are not postmarked by the appropriate application deadline will not be considered. A completed application consists of a cover letter, resume, and a list of 3 references.

Application materials for the fall and spring are considered on a rolling basis, pending availability of positions. Typically, Greenlining only accepts students from local law schools during the fall and spring semesters. For more information, please contact Danielle Trimiew, Academy Director, at (510) 926-4007 or daniellet@greenlining.org.